

# The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, May 23, 1991

Published Since 1877

## Besieged is word for Cambodian Christians

By Michael Chute

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (BP) — Loud bursts of gunfire outside shatter the morning calm.

Inside, the people of Psa Thmai Church collectively duck. The worship leader stops in mid-sentence, finally glancing cautiously out the window at the commotion below.

Government soldiers fire automatic weapons into the air as their convoy speeds out of Cambodia's capital, Phnom Penh, toward front-line fighting with Khmer Rouge guerrilla forces in western provinces bordering Thailand.

Within moments the motorcade passes. Shots fade in the distance. Psa Thmai Church resumes its worship services. But the memory lingers.

The scene dramatizes the fear gripping Cambodia. The Protestant church feels it too. Christians expect the worst. Like the rest of the country, they're not sure when or how it will come. But they're sure it will come.

Just a year after "official" government recognition, the Protestant church in Cambodia can be characterized by one word: besieged.

Cambodia's communist government wants just one Protestant church to deal with, not several. Buddhist-backed society prefers no Christian church at all. Christian cults want their particular brand of church. Foreign Christians demand to help the existing church. And the 10 house churches meeting in Phnom Penh just want to be left alone.

"Through the guidelines of the party's central committee, we want (house churches) to unite into one church in Phnom Penh," said Mey Wam, head of the governing National Front's religious affairs department.

Mey admitted the government has allowed 50 Buddhist temples to open in Phnom Penh. But Buddhism is the dominant religion. Buddhist temples reopened in 1979, shortly after Vietnamese troops liberated them from Khmer Rouge domination. Christian churches were only recognized officially last year.

House church leaders don't want to be limited to just one meeting place. Government officials say it's necessary: the country is at war and they fear infiltrators.

"The government is concerned if (the church) gets to the point where it's a political force — a partisan sort of thing," said Bill O'Leary, a Catholic Maryknoll priest from the United States. "It's still quite delicate here. They're communists but not atheists."

Government authorities insist official recognition was only a formality. They say churches have been allowed freedom of worship since the 1979 ouster of the Khmer Rouge. Church leaders have their doubts.

"People are really afraid of the government," said one Cambodian who asked for anonymity. "They're fearful the government is going to change — that (Khmer Rouge leader)

Pol Pot will come back — and they'll be persecuted for being Christians."

Misunderstandings continue to develop concerning the latitude given to Protestants as rumors run rampant through Phnom Penh's house churches.

Within a one-week period, rumors claimed foreigners were no longer allowed to attend church services, churches must be registered with the government, and ordinances of the church — baptism and communion — were now forbidden.

Government authorities insisted all the rumors were untrue. But they admit very little has been made clear, either. In fact, the week the baptism rumor circulated, Psa Thmai Church held its third baptism service in six months, baptizing 65 people in a lake outside Phnom Penh.

Outside Phnom Penh, the situation for Christians varies, depending upon provincial governments. Church leaders cite numerous examples of persecution. In Kompong Speu last November, two Christians were jailed for preaching. They were released only after agreeing not to evangelize.

In another case, Buddhists com-



THANKSGIVING — Since Cambodia's communist government officially recognized the Christian church in April 1990, the country's 8,000 Christians are free to worship openly, as this young man does in a house church in Phnom Penh. (BP photo by Charles Ledford)



PAYDAY — Workers at Textile Factory #4 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, wait anxiously outside the factory doors for paychecks. It is one of four factories in Phnom Penh being aided by Southern Baptists' Cooperative Services International.

CSI worker Bruce Carlton is trying to help overcome a typhoid epidemic in the factory. After two decades of civil war and genocide, Cambodians continue to face fear, hunger, poverty and international isolation. (BP photo by Charles Ledford)

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL  
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UNSUNG HERO — Workers at a tiny international school in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, call Southern Baptist Cooperative Services International worker Gloria Carlton (shown with daughter Mary, age 7) an "unsung hero" because of her tireless work with children at the school. Gloria and her husband Bruce are Southern Baptists' only workers in Cambodia, assigned by CSI. The one-room school was started with two students and now has 24. It has just one teacher, sent by the World Vision relief organization. Textbooks were donated by superintendents of public and Christian schools in the United States. (BP photo by Charles Ledford)

plained to district authorities a Christian should be removed as head teacher of a primary school. The school is located in a Buddhist temple, as are most primary and secondary schools in Cambodia. Also, children of Christians reportedly are harassed as other school children refuse to socialize with them, calling them "Jesus Children."

Of 50 pastors trained by the Christian and Missionary Alliance — which began Protestant work in Cambodia in 1923 — only 10 were still functioning in 1975. Today, there are only two pastors left — one retired, one living

in Kompong Cham — who survived the brutality of the Khmer Rouge drive to stamp out religion.

Pol Pot's communist Khmer Rouge regime marked Christians for death. Government figures show only 8,000 believers remain in Cambodia — 2,000 Protestants, 3,000 Catholics, and another 3,000 aligned with Christian cults.

Common to every Protestant house church in Phnom Penh are several characteristics. Adequate meeting places are hard to find. Bibles and hymnals are scarce. Training materials and programs are nonexistent.

Yet, nearly all church observers in Cambodia insist religious cults, particularly the New Apostolic Church from the United States and Canada, posed the greatest threat to Protestants during the past year. Scores of Protestant Christians initially left existing churches, lured by promises of English-language tuition and training courses overseas, which have strong appeal among younger Cambodians. In some cases entire churches aligned themselves with the New Apostolic Church.

"This group wreaked havoc among Protestants," said one Christian worker. "It was a good lure. But a lot (of Protestants) have come back (to house churches) after the initial flood of interest."

After several months of pointed discussions with church leaders, the communist government — apparently not previously attuned to nuances within Christian circles — now recognizes differences between Protestants and New Apostolics.

But Christian distinctions continue to confuse government officials responsible for religious affairs. They often point to Buddha's teachings as the guiding force for Buddhists and say the Bible should guide all Christians.

In December the government returned use of a former seminary dormitory to the Catholic church, according to O'Leary. Now about 1,000 Catholic parishioners attend Mass there each week.

Concerning the church, nearly everyone agrees on one thing: Christians in Cambodia have a long way to go. But then, look at where they have been.

Chute writes for FMB.



# EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

## Stop that pendulum

The right wing has a propensity for swinging too far to the right, and now the left wing is trying to outdo the right wing. Increasingly, there is direct competition between the conservatives and moderates bordering on combativeness.

Beginning in October 1991, you can buy Sunday School literature "By Baptists for Baptists" from Smyth and Helwys Publishing, Inc. in Greenville, S.C. It is said to be free from "pack" thinking and a "herd" mentality. Citing the desperate need of Southern Baptists for an alternate Sunday School curriculum, Robert G. Fulbright of Missouri will head a design team to develop a new curriculum called "Formations."

Southern Baptists have spent thousands of dollars to design, develop, field test, and market what was once considered to be the world's best Sunday School literature. Have

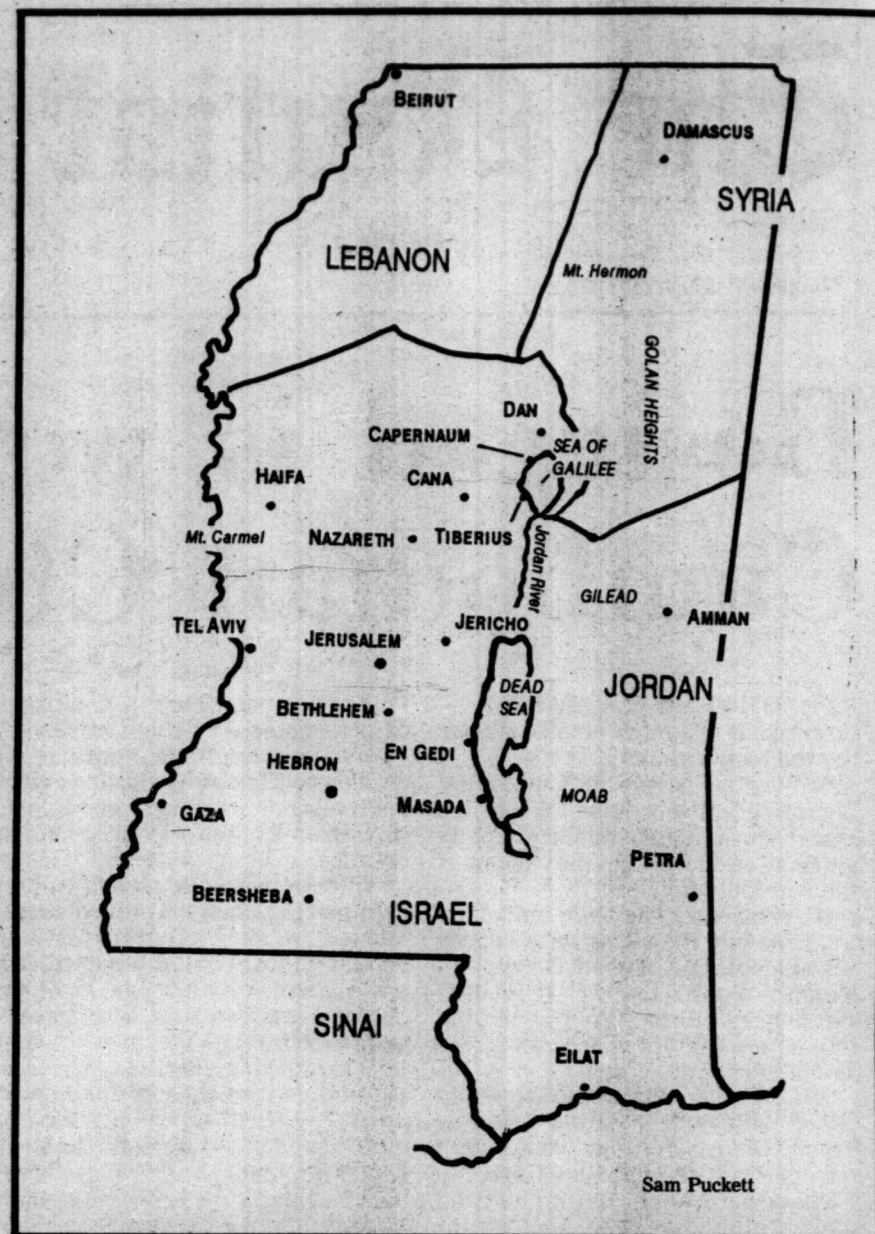
we slipped that much? Would not a cooperative course correction be more appropriate than the "all or nothing" attitude that will see the two publishers in competition and confuse our churches. This knee-jerk reaction is hardly warranted.

For a season the moderates appeared to be what the SBC needed to leaven some of the militancy of the conservatives. Now it appears they are in the throes of a backlash where nothing in the SBC is worth salvaging and what's in the moderates' pipeline is apt to lead to excesses in theology and ecclesiology. Statements are being made from both sides about the Bible that are more for shocking the flock than feeding them.

I don't necessarily like what has happened in the SBC in the last decade, nor do I favor the break-away spirit of the moderates. It's not all bad

in the SBC and assuredly the flaws of the moderates are becoming more apparent. It appears we have 10 percent on the extreme right and 10 percent on the extreme left with the 80 percent feeling the tug from both sides. Is there no way we can say "cool it" to the extremes and get on with the Lord's work? Family bickering is not attractive and leads to outlandish results.

Meanwhile, a nation is rocked with an explosion of immorality, drug abuse, child abuse, and large unevangelized segments of population. Eastern bloc countries are open to the gospel, Africa and South America are showing an increase in receptivity of the gospel, and Asia is revealing possibilities of becoming the center of Christianity. What will historians write about what could be Southern Baptists' finest hour?



Sam Puckett

## Where we are

Forget the trip to the optometrist; your eyes are not playing tricks on you. Yes, our local cartographer is a bit off — about 5,000 miles — this week.

You've heard about the size of Israel. We just wanted to give you an example in a rough overlay comparing the Holy Land region with Mississippi. Scholars have noted that Jesus, with the Egyptian sojourn being the exception, seldom traveled more than a hundred miles from his boyhood home. Having the Jordan River flow from Kosciusko to just east of Pelahatchie, helps us understand though famous, this meandering creek is really small.

You can drive from the dry, barren desert of Beersheba to the lush, semitropical area of Dan in approximately three hours. It's like driving from McComb to Eupora, except our scenery would change little.

The area around the Sea of Galilee would probably be the favorite for most Mississippians. You can sit in a rocking chair on the veranda of a quaint hotel and gaze on the same body of water where the disciples fished for a living. The northern edge where Jesus taught the multitudes is in the distance, and rising like a fence across the sea are the Golan Heights.

Kids may drive from West to Lexington on Sunday night after church to get a soda pop, but not too many would drive from Cana to Nazareth, though the distance is similar.

Practice saying it: "When I go to the Holy Land . . ." not, "If I go . . ." Something meaningful is to be discovered in every city. Israel's Department of Tourism, El Al Airline, or your local travel agent will be happy to assist you in planning your trip. The editors' and writers' group covered it in seven days, but two weeks would be better. — G.H.

## A tip of the hat

Grady Crowell, director of missions in Clarke Association, reports the remarkable way the 29 churches there responded to the Annie Armstrong Home Missions Offering.

In 1980 the churches gave \$10,974 and then doubled the amount in the next five years. In 1991, the churches gave \$23,379. They have averaged

\$19,904 for the past ten years.

"This is not written to be boastful, but to encourage our churches to be generous in supporting home missions," said Crowell.

A tip of the hat this week to the generous people in Clarke Association. — G.H.

## Spouse abuse . . . the other side

By William T. Irwin

Denise George in an article in the Baptist Record, dated April 18, 1991, said, "Domestic violence is quickly becoming America's number one health problem."

"In the United States today, spouse abuse specialists claim some 8.7 million men abuse wives. Abuse includes murder, rape and sexual assault, slaps, kicks, as well as threats, name-calling, personal put-downs, and other forms of physical and emotional battering."

It would seem that we should ask, did these specialists try to determine whether the wives provoked their spouses to such violence?

We learned that Ralph became enraged when Sharon "dropped the dirty sheets on the floor," but we did not learn what had taken place before she dropped the sheets. This may have been just one side of the story; we did not hear from Ralph.

Abuse should never become acceptable behavior, in the church or out of the church. Yet we know that it does happen. If we are to do anything constructive, we must look at both sides.

Working with family counseling in a large city was an eye-opener. It would seem unthinkable that rape and sexual assault would take place between husband and wife, until we learn that some couples play sex games, that is, they withhold sex when the spouse does not give or get them what they want. When this behavior takes place, sex becomes a thing of barter, very close to selling the body. This behavior reduces the person to the animal level and may cause them to act as an animal would. Either spouse may inflict this hurt upon the other.

"Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words never will." This old chant, that we learned as children, just is not true! Words that belittle,

spoken in a time of weakness, may do as much damage as murder, but only the victim is sent to (a non-person) prison for life, while the guilty party goes free to bring pain to someone else.

It would seem, verbal abuse may be more harmful than physical abuse. Most murders and abuse would never have happened if someone had kept his mouth shut. Words are seductive and dangerous material and should be used with caution. You never have to take a dose of your own medicine if you know when to keep your mouth shut. Kind words do not wear out the tongue, so we should speak them often.

THE CASE OF (we shall call them) JACK AND JILL: They had come to the office as a result of a fight in which Jill had received several bruises and complained of abuse. The counselor had met with each of them, three or four times before having them come in together. Jack had admitted beating Jill, but said that it came after Jill had spent several days nagging at him, to which she finally confessed, and said she might have been wrong.

Jack cried and said that he was sorry and would try to control his temper, but said to her, "Honey, please don't nag me." Jill said, "I'll try."

The counselor was feeling that this was sure to be one of his successful cases, but as they walked to the door, he overheard: Jill in a loud voice say, "I'll tell you one thing 'Buster,' if you ever lay a hand on me again," before she could finish, Jack shot back with a booming voice, "You'll do what?," Jill responded in a cowed tone, "I just don't want you to hurt me any more," to which Jack replied in a hopeful voice, "Me either." As the door closed, Jill in a mumbling voice said, "If you do, I'll have you put under the

jail." This couple had never learned to communicate.

We may find a clue to solving the abuse problem in the letter from a 17-year-old boy, in which he asks the question, "Why do most girls prefer rough and rowdy boys over good and nice behaving boys?" Do these girls not know that when they marry, these husbands cannot be made into gentlemen? The simple answer is, if women want good husbands they as girls, must date only good boys. Girls, if you want to avoid abuse, keep yourselves pure and develop a habit of talking without nagging and by all means date only good, gentle young men.

Irwin is pastor of Calvary Church in Holly Springs.

## New black SBC church organized in Meridian

Providence Church, Marietta, Ga., has organized a black Southern Baptist Church in Meridian. The church was organized on Sunday, May 5, after revival services were held on Saturday and Sunday.

W. L. Scott, pastor, Providence Church, led in the organization. The revival and organization of the new church were held in the Macedonia Primitive Baptist Church (black) at 601 21st Street in Meridian. The Providence Church in Marietta is a member of the Noonday Baptist Association, SBC.

Scott can be heard on radio in Meridian, Monday through Friday between 12 and 1 on radio station WBNB AM 1290.

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VOLUME 115 (ISSN-0005-5778) NUMBER 16  
Published weekly except weeks of July 4 and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist Convention, 515 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$7.35 a year payable in advance. Second class postage paid at Jackson, Mississippi. The Baptist Record is a member of Southern Baptist Press Association.

Editor . . . . . Guy Henderson  
Associate Editor . . . . . Anne McWilliams  
Advertising Manager . . . . . Evelyn Keyes  
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# Atlanta doctors say, "Do some pre-trip planning"

ATLANTA (BP) — Two physicians from the Georgia Baptist Medical Center will operate the first aid center when Southern Baptists convene in June for their annual meeting.

Their advice for convention attendees: do some pre-trip planning.

David Baxter and David Anders will co-direct the center as they did when the annual meeting was held in Atlanta in 1986. Both are board-certified specialists in internal medicine

and both are associate program directors for the residency training program at GBMC.

Their advice:

— If you have a known physical condition, make certain you bring an adequate supply of your prescription medications.

— Check with your local physician before leaving home to see if you should take any medical information with you to Atlanta.

— Anticipate the significant amount of walking required for a convention. Make sure your shoes are comfortable enough for walking the distances from hotel to convention center to restaurant.

— By its nature, the convention is a very busy time. Don't forget to take care of the basics of good health care: adequate rest and proper food.

— When planning for the convention don't forget to pack a small medicine

kit with things you're most likely to need: aspirin, Band-Aids, antacids, and decongestants are a few.

— Atlanta can be very hot and humid, even in early June. Plan to be able to dress accordingly.

— Finally, don't forget to wear your seatbelt if driving to and from the convention.

Convention officials also reminded Southern Baptists that Delta Air Lines has special convention rates to

and from Atlanta. The fares are five percent discount off any published fare (with some exceptions), and a 45 percent discount off the unrestricted coach fare (seven days advance reservations and ticketing required).

To take advantage of the discounts call World Class Travel, Inc., at 1-800-237-0434, 8:30-5:30, Monday through Friday, Central Time Zone. Refer to File Number DO569.

## Attitude can transform job, McDonald claims

By Mark Wingfield

NEWARK, N.J. (BP) — Got a boring job in a city full of nameless people? Attitude can transform a boring urban job into a Christian ministry, an American Baptist pastor and author said during an urban ministries conference in Newark, N.J.

Gordon McDonald, pastor of Trinity Church in New York City, related the story of a bus driver he sees almost daily in his commute to work. One day the man complained to McDonald: "You've got it a lot better than me. You have an interesting job and travel different places. I just drive this bus up and down the same streets every day."

McDonald told the bus driver his job could be a Christian ministry too. "Every day, when you first get on this bus, before anyone else gets on, dedicate that bus to God for that day. Declare it to be a sanctuary for God for that day. Consecrate it to God's glory, and then act like it is a place where God dwells."

Several weeks later McDonald returned from a trip and saw the bus driver. "You've transformed my life," the man exclaimed. "I've been doing what you said every day, and it has made me see my job in an entirely new perspective."

The same transformation could happen to other people in their work if they would take the time to prayerfully adjust their attitudes each day, McDonald claimed.

Wingfield writes for HMB.

## 6,000 Southern Baptists chart a new course

The 6,000 Southern Baptists who met in Atlanta in early May charted a new course of denominational involvement, unsure of where it would take them. They adopted a new name — Cooperative Baptist Fellowship — a constitution, a budget, a mission plan, and agreed to meet again next year.

Some momentum was noted in the attendance which was doubled from the 3,000 which met last August. Still only 200 churches have contributed funds to the organization, though Daniel Vestal, Atlanta pastor, said the "embryonic" organization represents the sentiment of "hundreds of thousands" of Southern Baptists.

Organizers cited three reasons for forming the Fellowship: "a policy of exclusion" practices by fundamental/conservatives since 1979, the futility of further political activity, and critical theological differences. In their search for success, Southern Baptists surrendered their freedom to a "centralized bureaucracy," said Nancy Ammerman, a Baptist sociologist teaching at Emory University. "We promised to build our churches, plan our programs, train our leaders, robe our choirs, tag our visitors, and pray our prayers according to calendars and handbooks that come from official church headquarters," she said. "The Pope should be so lucky. It took a fundamentalist takeover of the denomination's institutions to show us just how completely we had already — voluntarily — given up our freedom. If the SBC can

deprive you of your religious liberty, you have given the SBC entirely too much power," according to Ammerman.

The Fellowship will begin a search for a full time executive director immediately, said elected moderator John Hewett, pastor of First Church, Asheville, N.C.

Grady Cothen, former president of Baptist Sunday School Board, said \$1.57 million had been given through the Fellowship channel as of April 30.

The group will be governed by a moderator, moderator-elect, and recorder who will serve with a 79 member coordinating council. Mississippians elected to the coordinating council are: Jean Bond, Starkville; Suzzi Paynter, Jackson (three years); Joe Tuten, Jackson (two years); and Tom Sims, Richton (one year). Bylaws call for five ministry groups: world missions, literature, ethics and public policy, theological education, and equipping the laity.

John Hewett, moderator, would not admit that any money funneled through the Fellowship would reduce the SBC's massive Cooperative Program budget. He said for every moderate church that redirects its giving, a "fundamentalist" church may increase giving. "The operative word is choice. Local autonomy is breaking out all over, and the freedom is exhilarating," Hewett said.

This story was compiled from ABP and BP reports.

### Bush will speak at SBC, Atlanta

President George Bush will speak at the Southern Baptist Convention, Atlanta, Ga., on Thursday, June 6. He is expected to speak to the morning session.

The Second Front Page

# The Baptist Record

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Thursday, May 23, 1991

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## Prison officials won't let Noriega to be baptized

By Greg Warner

MIAMI (ABP) — Manuel Noriega won't be baptized until he is either convicted or acquitted of drug charges, if his prison guardians have their way.

The deposed Panamanian leader, who says he became a Christian a year ago in his Miami prison cell under the influence of two Texas evangelists, is now requesting baptism.

But Warden Stephen Pontesso of the Metropolitan Correctional Center has informed Noriega and the evangelists that the baptism won't be allowed while Noriega is in custody at the federal facility in Miami.

Noriega is awaiting trial June 24 on federal drug trafficking charges. Accused of being a key link in illegal drug traffic between South America

and the United States, Noriega could be sentenced to 165 years in prison if convicted.

In a March 26 letter to evangelist Cliff Brannon of Longview, Texas, Warden Pontesso said MCC chaplains have neither performed nor approved any baptisms at the detention facility, which he said is "a temporary place of residence" for those awaiting trial. It is "imperative," Pontesso wrote, that the prison "not single out Mr. Noriega for special treatment."

Brannon and fellow evangelist Rudy Hernandez of San Antonio, Texas, visited Noriega in prison May 15, on the one-year anniversary of his profession of faith.

The evangelists had hoped to baptize Noriega during their visit and had arranged for him to become a

member of a Baptist church in Miami.

The evangelists were accompanied in their visit by Miami Baptist layman Tony Ponceti, who, at the request of the evangelists, has led Noriega through eight months of intensive weekly Bible studies.

Concerning Noriega's request for baptism, MCC information officials said any reversal of the prison's refusal would have to come from the federal prison system's central office in Washington, D.C.

Brannon said they will appeal the baptism decision through the federal prison system. "We believe that is going to come about," he said.

Warner is editor, Associate Baptist Press.

## CLC joins NRLC in court brief

By Tom Strobe

WASHINGTON (BP) — The Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission has joined the National Right to Life Committee in a friend-of-the-court brief asking the United States Supreme Court to rule the Civil Rights Act of 1871 cannot be used by abortionists to sue pro-life groups such as Operation Rescue for blocking access to abortion clinics.

The 120-year-old law, known as the Ku Klux Klan Act, was intended to protect the constitutional rights of black persons, not the rights of abortionists or women seeking abortions, the brief says.

It also says there is no protection against private interference with a right to abortion under the KKK Act or the Ninth Amendment, a contention made by legal counsel for the Alexandria, Va., Women's Clinic. "The right to abortion, under Roe v. Wade, ... is a Fourteenth Amend-

ment right against government interference with the abortion decision, not a right against all interference," the brief says.

"It is a perversion of statutory construction to treat pro-life protesters like KKK members who had committed violent crimes," said Michael Whitehead, general counsel of the CLC. "KKK members treated blacks like nonpersons, and this law prohibited that practice. It turns the statute on its head to allow it to be used by groups who treat unborn babies as nonpersons."

The Civil Rights Act was passed in 1871 to protect blacks, who recently had received constitutional citizenship, from harassment by KKK members.

Under the act, victims were granted the right to sue private offenders in federal court.

Bray v. Alexandria Women's Clinic is reportedly among about 25 cases in the United States in which courts have issued injunctions under the KKK Act to prohibit Operation Rescue and other pro-life groups from blockading abortion clinics. In the case, Jayne Bray and other Operation Rescue members were enjoined from blocking access to Alexandria Women's Clinic and other abortion clinics in northern Virginia.

The Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled the pro-lifers would be impeding a constitutional right to travel across state lines because many of the women seeking abortions were from other states.

The brief was filed by NRLC's counsel April 11. The case is expected to be heard in the fall.

Strobe is director, media and news information, Washington office, CLC.



# Fellowship: formation of group is not from "petty rivalry"

By Mark Wingfield

ATLANTA (BP) — Formation of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship does not stem from "petty rivalry," according to a statement presented by the interim steering committee of The Baptist Fellowship, precursor to the new group.

More than 5,000 Southern Baptist moderates formed Cooperative Baptist Fellowship during a May 9-11 meeting in Atlanta.

"If the old moderate wing of the SBC were represented in making policy and were treated as welcomed representatives of competing ideas in the Baptist mission task, then we would co-exist, as we did for years, alongside fundamentalism," the statement said. "But this is not the way things are."

Walter Shurden, professor of church history at Mercer University in Macon, Ga., read the statement on behalf of the steering committee.

In a later interview, Shurden said this statement, originally intended to be a preamble to the fellowship's constitution, was written in a fashion similar to the public statement given in 1845 to explain the purpose of the constitution and bylaws of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Shurden said he and Cecil Sherman, pastor of Broadway Church in Fort Worth, Texas, were the primary writers of the statement.

Forming the fellowship "does not require that we sever ties with the old Southern Baptist Convention," the statement said. "It does give us

another mission delivery system, one more like our understanding of what it means to be Baptist and what it means to do gospel."

Forming this new group is merely a confession there is a division within the SBC, the statement said. "To spend our time trying to reclaim a human institution is to make more of that institution than we ought to make."

"When we make more of the SBC than we ought, we risk falling into idolatry. Twelve years is too long to engage in political activity. We are called to higher purposes."

The statement identified six areas where moderates differ with the conservatives who have gained control of the Southern Baptist Convention in the past 12 years:

1. Bible. "The Bible neither claims nor reveals inerrancy as a Christian teaching. Bible claims must be based on the Bible, not on human interpretations of the Bible."

Inerrancy — generally defined as the belief that the Bible is literally true in everything it says — was the rallying cry for conservatives as they gained control of presidential appointive powers in the SBC.

2. Education. "Fundamentalists educate by indoctrination... We seek to enlarge and build upon such truth as we have."

3. Mission. "Fundamentalists make the mission assignment narrower than Jesus did. They allow their emphasis on direct evangelism to undercut other biblical ministries of mer-

cy and justice. This narrowed definition of what a missionary ought to be and do is a contention between us."

4. Pastor. "They argue the pastor should be the ruler of a congregation... Our understanding of the role of the pastor is to be a servant/shepherd."

5. Women. The statement said conservatives generally believe women should be submissive to men in church leadership roles, but moderates believe women are "equally capable of dealing with sacred issues."

6. Church. Describing Cooperative Baptist Fellowship as "ecumenical" and "inclusive," the statement said: "We are eager to have fellowship with our brothers and sisters in the faith and to recognize their work for our Savior. We do not try to make them conform to us; we try to include them in our design for mission."

"The points of difference are critical," the statement said. "They are the stuff around which a fellowship such as the Southern Baptist Convention is made."

"At no place have we been able to negotiate about these differences. Were our fundamentalist brethren to negotiate, they would compromise. And that would be a sin by their understandings. So we can either come to their position or we can form a new fellowship."

Wingfield writes for HMB. Linda Lawson contributed to this story.



Associational Officers Training was held May 14 in Jackson.

## Association leaders meet, Alta Woods, Jackson

By Guy Henderson

More than 570 association leaders attended Associational Officers Training (AOT) at the Alta Woods Church, May 14. This meeting, under the direction of Eugene Dobbs, administrative assistant for ministry, MBCB, seeks to equip the association leaders to train the church leaders in the association.

Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer, spoke to the group on the priorities of the Convention and the priorities for associations and churches. The focus is "Helping to bring Mississippi and the world to Jesus," and our every meeting, according to Causey, ought to contribute to this.

The priorities deal with the "how to" and Causey said they were first, bearing an authentic witness to every

Mississippian in all ethnic groups and social strata.

Second, there should be an opportunity for every Christian to be in a Bible study in his own context, and thirdly, every Christian should be enlisted and trained to help in bringing others to Christ.

"Everything we do should come under one of these three priorities. God has given us the power, defined the task, promised his presence, and we are to continue on 'til the end of the ages," said Causey.

Don Wilson, associational consultant, said there were 15 training groups led by Baptist Building personnel, plus several leaders from Nashville and the Home Mission Board.

## "Don't sleepwalk through this," say Mississippians of Fellowship

By Tim Nicholas

During a meeting of Mississippi Baptists attending the Atlanta convocation of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, a pastor summed up the feelings of others who don't want to be identified publicly with the Fellowship because of potential criticism. He said, "They will say we don't believe the Bible."

However, any person who wishes to participate may do so in a series of meetings to be held in five Mississippi locations in the next year. The statewide planning group consists of James Yates, Yazoo City; John McGraw, Laurel; Wayne Riley, Meridian; Ray Lloyd, Starkville; and Howard Williams, Clinton. These are responsible for planning the regional meetings. Dates and places will be announced as plans progress.

During state meetings at the Fellowship sessions, participants discussed felt needs in missions and Christian literature, and nominated persons for the national coordinating council.

Those Mississippians nominated, and subsequently elected to the Fellowship's Coordinating Council, were Tom Sims of Richton; Joe Tuten and Suzi Paynter of Jackson; and Jean Bond of Starkville. Results of the state group discussions were given to national planning groups.

Talk ran to the perceptions of others who are not active in the Fellowship's beginnings.

"Thirty years ago we sleepwalked

our way through the Civil Rights movement," said one Mississippian participating in the recent Atlanta meeting of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

"Let's not sleepwalk our way through this," he said.

"What we're going through now can be more vicious" than in the 60s, said another participant.

The 50 or so Mississippi Baptists questioned why the predominant participation in the Fellowship comes from laypersons.

The pastors, said one, "are too afraid to take the pulse of the congregations." Another suggested that "they have not cared enough about their Baptist heritage and have not had the offensive and difficult experience" participants have had.

Concerning missions, Mississippians talked of several career missionaries who are either resigning or who they predicted would resign as a result of the convention controversy. There was general, though not uniform, agreement that missionaries are upset with the results of the controversy, such as, participants said, giving 60 percent of one's time to evangelism despite the actual job of the missionary.

One retired missionary said "I don't believe there's a panic on the foreign mission field." Another retired missionary said he believes more missionaries will be coming home. Another mission volunteer said of

career missionaries in her area, "They're scared."

"We're discussing a long process," said one of the retired career missionaries. "It demands new methods," he said.

"The cooperative effort is the best way to go," said another Mississippian. "It's the safest for the missionary," he said, affirming that a missionary who must spend a portion of his or her time raising salaries cannot concentrate on the work as can SBC missionaries whose salaries are guaranteed.

In the area of Christian literature, there was general agreement that Bible study should be the primary focus. "Of the faults I see in Southern Baptist literature," said one participant, "being biblical is not one of them."

However, participants seemed to want literature that answered the questions "Why, what if, and so what." And another questioned the lack of educational goals in the Bible study program.

Some participants said they wanted the Fellowship "to hold us together till the crisis is over." For some that is not enough, they want a missionary outreach now.

Said another of the difficulty of any consideration of a breakaway: "Even if we have a new, separate organization of moderates, don't forget, we are a part of an organization (the SBC) that is functioning pretty well."

## Convention Board elects Goff BSU director, Jones County CC

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Executive Committee last week elected Lawrence Edwin (Larry) Goff as Baptist Student director for Jones County Community College.

Goff, 47, goes to Jones from the pastorate of Edon Church, Stringer, where he has served since 1986.

He has been pastor/advisor for the BSU there and a member of the BSU advisory committee. He also leads MasterLife and MasterBuilder workshops for the Mississippi Discipleship Training Department.



Goff

He was pastor of Friendship Church, Ellisville, 1978-86 and he was interim pastor at Leaf River Church in Covington County, 1976-77. Earlier, he was youth and choir director for the chapel at Fort Wainright, Alaska, 1974-75.

Goff served in the U.S. Army as an infantry officer and aviator with nine years of active duty. He served the Mississippi Army National Guard for 11½ years, retiring in 1986.

A graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi, Goff earned the master of divinity degree from New Orleans Seminary.

Goff and his wife Linda Jean have three children: Melinda Jean Bradshaw of Jackson; Melissa Carol Goff of Hinesville, Ga.; and Larry Goff of Monterey, Calif.



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# Colonial Hills: "like going down track on run-away train"

By Anne W. McWilliams

"It's like we are going down the track on a run-away train!" said Steve Bennett, pastor of Colonial Hills Church, Southaven. In March, the church began its third Sunday School. Probably the only other church in the state that has three is First, Jackson.

On May 23, Colonial Hills is getting its third Eagle Award, an SBC growth award that requires, among other items, the increase of Sunday School net enrollment by 182 and teaching units by 10, with no time frame. Two other churches in the state have gotten an Eagle Award, according to Randy Tompkins, consultant, state Sunday School Department. They are Crossgates, Brandon, and First, Greenville. Colonial Hills will be presented its third Eagle during a growth spiral conference at Southside Church, Huntsville, Ala.

Since July 1, 1990, Colonial Hills Church has added 800+ Sunday School members. Net gain: 672. The year's goal is 1,000.

Between March 25, 1990, and March 31, 1991, the church added 122 more Sunday School workers and 51 new Sunday School classes, and baptized 89.

Quarterly average attendance in Sunday School is 1,036. "Since Jan. 1 of this year," said Bill Tharp, minister of education, "we have averaged 100 in weekly outreach and 1,000 contacts

made each week." Total SS enrollment is over 2,000.

Where are all the people coming from? Senatobia, Hernando, Memphis . . . "People drive up to 20 miles," said Tharp.

The pastor teaches a class of 70 to 80 during the 8:30 Sunday School, before preaching at two worship services later in the morning. Second and third Sunday Schools start at 9:45 and 11.

Tharp displayed a gold fish hook pin. "If you bring three new members to Sunday School, you get a gold fish hook," he said. Also members have been building "Nehemiah's wall" in the sanctuary, with "bricks" representing new members and those who brought them.

Tharp, who moved to Southaven from Texas a year ago, said, "We have a pastor who is a great leader . . . We are all growing together. God is doing it. His hand is on us."

In the two years Bennett has been pastor at Colonial Hills, the Sunday School has more than doubled. "Our problem is space," he said. The church has bought 17 acres of land on Highway 51 for a new church plant — fan-shaped sanctuary to seat 3,500; multi-purpose building; and two Sunday School wings. These are to go up in a "pay as we go" plan, according to the pastor. "Our philosophy," he

said, "is finding a need and meeting it."

The church staff meets every Tuesday morning at 7, to pray together. Of the six full-time staff members, three had worked with Bennett previously — minister of education, minister of music, and director of children's ministries. During a retreat last fall, the staff set goals for a five-year period and in January presented to the church their plans in a booklet, "The Road to Glory, a projection of growth, ministry, and evangelism for 1991-95."

Jo McDaniel, director of children's ministries, said that the preschool department is booming. As many as 200 preschool workers a month rotate turns at duty. The old fellowship hall is being renovated for use as preschool space.

Dyer Harbor, minister of youth, said he has found wide open doors to schools. "I meet a lot of unchurched kids that way. The door is wide open for ministry."

In Heart to Heart, a peer counseling group, Harbor has directed the 30 hours of training of strong young Christians, "the sharpest youths," as soulwinners. "This training gives our kids confidence," he noted. "They know they must stay spiritually clean. As a result, it helps them, as well as the ones they give help to."

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Violet Castle is a Sunday School teacher at Colonial Hills Church, Southaven. The class of women she began teaching last July has since divided twice, to create new ones. This has happened to quite a few classes in the rapidly growing church. Mrs. Castle is shown with her pastor, Steve Bennett.

On July 14, Colonial Hills youths will go to New York state, to work with a Vietnamese church as Bible teachers and in one-on-one outreach. The past two years they went to Montana.

Rick Sayger, 25-year-old minister of music who was graduated No. 1 in his class at Mid-America Seminary, is planning a Fourth of July patriotic community concert, complete with fireworks. Church choirs, under his leadership, have doubled in membership, and he is building an orchestra.

Brad Becker, minister of family resources, provides counseling, guidance, and resources for families. He seeks to "ground" the church's many young couples in matters such as finance, marital communications, and parenting children.

Becker and his wife are parents of

five; their oldest child is 6. "I'm right in the middle of life!" he laughed. When people ask, "How do you manage?" he can tell them. Through seminars and counseling, he said, "We teach them (the couples) Scriptures, across all of life," — how to use the scriptural principles to help solve their problems.

Colonial Hills Church was constituted 26 years ago, under leadership of Ervin Brown, director of missions, in what is now Northwest Association. Only two pastors preceded Bennett: Jack Nazary and Tommy Vinson.

"I am thrilled the church is growing," said Brown. "In April of 1965 I preached the first sermon there. It is a special thrill to see the growth, since I know these people."



Church media library state officers for 1990-91 met May 6 at the Baptist Building to make plans for the Church Media Library Conference to be held at First Church, Hattiesburg, Nov. 1-2. Back row, left to right, are Keith Williams, consultant, state Sunday School department; Juanita Hight, Louisville, publicity chairman; Joan Beasley, Wesson, historian; and Nancy Hughes, Hattiesburg, program chairman. Front row are, left to right, Sharon Neff, Arcola, president; Agatha Sandidge, Brookhaven, vice president; and Faye Miller, Hattiesburg, TACMO representative. Not pictured: Sandra Fitts, Corinth, ex officio, and Joan Davis, Madison, secretary-treasurer.

## Librarians plan conference for November in Hattiesburg

The Church Media Library Conference will be held at First Church, Hattiesburg, Nov. 1-2, beginning with 9:30 a.m. registration on Friday and ending at noon on Saturday.

Conference leaders and program personalities will include Peggy Tacon, Mobile, Ala.; Jackie Anderson and Danny Ayala, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville; Keith Williams, Jackson, consultant, state Sunday School Department; Kathy Sylvest, Alexandria, La.; Floyd Simpson and David Tiller, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville; Beulah Lewis and Janet Jordan, Jackson; Linda Donnell and Carol Simmons of

Hattiesburg.

Program topics will include audiovisuals, classification and cataloging, administration, processing, book repair, instructional media for churches, promotion, essentials for desk personnel, reading clues, and witness with media.

Conference participants will be given an opportunity to visit the DeGrummond Children's Literature Research Collection in the McCain Library and Archives at University of Southern Mississippi. This is one of North America's leading research centers in the field of American and British children's literature.

## Clendinnings are assigned to East Asia

RICHMOND, Va. — The Foreign Mission Board, SBC, named 21 people to attend a May 15-30 orientation and then work overseas through its International Service Corps program. Two are Mississippians.

Another 11 new ISC workers will go to the field exempt from orientation because of previous overseas experience.

Thirteen married couples are included in this latest group of ISC participants.

One man was selected for a business management assignment in Asia with Cooperative Services Inter-

national, the Southern Baptist agency that assists nations where missionaries do not work.

Pat Clendinning: Most recently employed as minister of counseling at Travis Avenue Church, Fort Worth, Tex., and a professor at Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth. He has been a Foreign Mission Board missionary in Switzerland and an auxiliary personnel worker in Hong Kong. Current address: 3616 Lawndale, Fort Worth, Texas 76133. Education: Millsaps College, Jackson, Miss., B.A. '48; Southwestern Seminary, M.A. '53, Ed.D. '59. Church: Travis Avenue

Baptist. Assigned as a social ministry worker in East Asia for 13 months.

Monte (Mrs. Pat.) Clendinning: Most recently employed as a conference coordinator at Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. She has been a Foreign Mission Board missionary in Switzerland and an auxiliary personnel worker in Hong Kong. Current address: 3616 Lawndale, Fort Worth, Texas 76133. Education: Blue Mountain (Miss.) College, B.A. '44; Southwestern Seminary, M.A. '52. Church: Travis Avenue, Fort Worth. Assigned as a social ministry worker in East Asia for 13 months.

## Clarke librarian will serve in Hungarian school

Joyce Brinkley Ziegler, librarian at Clarke College, will serve as a volunteer missionary in Budapest, Hungary, this summer. She received the appointment under the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board volunteer program and will be working in the library of the International Baptist Lay Academy, processing books and training library personnel.

The lay academy in Budapest is sponsored by the European Baptist Federation, Hungarian Baptists, and the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. The school provides basic

Christian training to laypersons and bi-vocational pastors from throughout eastern Europe.

Classes are taught in English to provide a common language to the varied language/culture groups.

The trip to Hungary in July will be Mrs. Ziegler's second volunteer mission project. In 1984, she served with a group from Mississippi in Limuru, Kenya, at the Theological Extension Library.

Mrs. Ziegler received her bachelor's degree from Louisiana College and master of library science degree at

Sam Houston State University. Before going to Clarke as librarian, she served for ten years with the Simpson County School district, as library consultant for Millcreek Rehabilitation Center in Magee.

I still find each day too short for all the thoughts I want to think, all the walks I want to take, all the books I want to read, and all the friends I want to see. The longer I live the more my mind dwells upon the beauty and the wonder of the world . . . — John Burroughs

## "Southern Baptists face two choices"

INDIANAPOLIS (BP) — Southern Baptists face two choices about their future, according to author Lyle Schaller.

"You can grow smaller as your people grow older or you can grow larger by reaching a new generation," the church growth analyst told 138 church leaders attending a Home Mission Board conference in Indianapolis.

A key to reaching a new generation is starting churches Schaller said, but he added effective church planting requires teamwork.

Church planting teams should include a minimum of three people — a pastor, evangelist, and music specialist, he said. A five-person team could include a person to minister to

families with children and a person responsible for developing church life.

Schaller, a Methodist, recommended church planting teams establish at least eight small groups. When the groups are brought together to form a church, "everybody would already belong." He said teams should try to have at least 200 people in their first church service.









## Mississippi SS specialists assist in Wyoming training

By Bill Hardy

Twenty-nine Sunday School specialists, under direction of Randy Tompkins of Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Sunday School Department, participated in eight days of Sunday School enrollment training in Casper, Wyoming, April 19-26.

Over two years of planning with Keith Wilkinson, Mississippi's state Sunday School director, and with Tompkins resulted in the partnership project in the new work state of Wyoming.

Casper, site of the state convention office, is part of Old Faithful Baptist Association. Of the 11 churches and two missions, there were 10 congregations that participated. Each Mississippian came at his own expense or had it provided by a local church.

Those participating in addition to Wilkinson and Tompkins were Gary Shows, McComb; Bob Buckner, Brandon; Ronnie Falvey, Leland; Paula Stringer, Jackson; Kathryn Waites, Hattiesburg; Jim Dalrymple, Gulfport; David Webb, Picayune; Randy Riley, Gulfport; David Wills, Oxford; Jerry Smith, Florence; Jackie Winters, Hattiesburg; Tammy

Sullivan, Jackson; Ron McGee, Meridian; Dot and Nat Mayhall, Corinth; Dale Sauls, Richland; Barbara Murray, Natchez; Ralph and Eva Cain, Ackerman; Carroll Farmer, Jackson; Joe Chapman, Jackson; Wayne Carter, Saltillo; Judy Haney, Shaw; Fran Young, West Point; Mike Armstrong, New Albany; David Hulsey, Kosciusko; Chuck Chapman, Corinth; Linda Reeves, Jackson; and Charles Gordon, Ackerman. David Rogers of Hattiesburg and Barbara Brown of Clinton had to drop out at the last minute due to personal or family illness.

Results have been outstanding: 463 prospects were discovered; 47 new people were enrolled in Bible Study; 15 new classes and departments were begun; and a genuine spirit of renewal experienced in the churches.

Wyoming Southern Baptists have expressed great appreciation for the spirit of cooperation and mission exhibited by the Mississippi Convention's Sunday School Department and the volunteers who participated in the project.

Hardy is Sunday School director for Wyoming.

## Palm Beach Atlantic College announces new president

Paul Corts has been named as the fifth president of Palm Beach Atlantic College, West Palm Beach, Fla., according to trustee chairman, Donald E. Warren, A West Palm Beach cardiologist.

During an April 29 press conference Warren announced that Paul R. Corts, president of Wingate College, will move into the top post at PBAC after he has fulfilled his duties at Wingate. Corts will replace acting president, L. Foster Harwell, who also serves as vice-president for academic affairs.

The late Claude H. Rhea served as PBAC president from February, 1982, until his death Sept. 19, 1990.

Corts, 47, has served as Wingate's president for eight years. Previously he was executive vice-president and chief administrative officer for Oklahoma Baptist University.

He received the bachelor of arts degree from Georgetown College, the masters of arts degree from Indiana University, and the doctor of philosophy degree from Indiana University in 1971.

## Seminary will honor Breazeale

**NEW ORLEANS SEMINARY ANNOUNCES DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS** — Jerry L. Breazeale of Brandon will be honored as New Orleans Seminary's Distinguished Alumnus during this year's alumni meeting and luncheon to be held in Atlanta next month. The award, given annually by the seminary's faculty, will be presented during the alumni luncheon in the Thomas B. Murphy Ballroom of the Georgia World Congress Center immediately following the conclusion of the morning session of the SBC Wednesday, June 5. Breazeale retired last year as direc-

tor of the seminary's School of Christian Training. He holds a bachelor's degree from Mississippi College, as well as the bachelor of divinity, master of theology, and doctor of theology degrees from New Orleans Seminary. He has been pastor of churches in Mississippi and Louisiana, and was a member of the Louisiana Baptist Convention executive board. In 1989, he received the Home Mission Board's Mosaic Award for significant contribution in the area of ethnic leadership, having directed the seminary's various ethnic branches.

## BYPU/BTU reunion planned at Ridgecrest

NASHVILLE — Anyone who remembers Hot Dog Lee or the phrase "SPIZ-A-RINC-TUM" is probably qualified to attend the first BYPU/BTU reunion this summer at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center.

According to Bob Cook, coordinator of the reunion to be held in conjunction with Discipleship Training Leadership Week, July 20-26, at Ridgecrest, SPIZ-A-RINC-TUM is another word for enthusiasm, and Hot Dog Lee is the church training af-

cionado from Georgia who coined the term.

Cook, retired Discipleship Training director for the Florida Baptist Convention, said those on the guest list for the reunion include anyone who remembers attending or teaching B.Y.P.U. (Baptist Young People's Union) or B.T.U. (Baptist Training Union) classes.

Cook said those who reunite can look forward to games and activities of former B.Y.P.U./B.T.U. programs. Participants will be offered old-

fashioned socials with games such as spin the bottle, post-office, and wink-em; watermelon cutting after the service; Bible quizzes; and shared testimonies of past blessings, said Cook.

Brochures and information about the reunion can be obtained from Wayne Jenkins, BSSB Discipleship Training Department, 127 Ninth Ave., N., MSN 149, Nashville, TN. 37234; (615) 251-2842. Reservations should be sent to Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center, Box 128, Ridgecrest, N.C. 28770.

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# Museum at Concord gives surety ex-pastor won't be forgotten

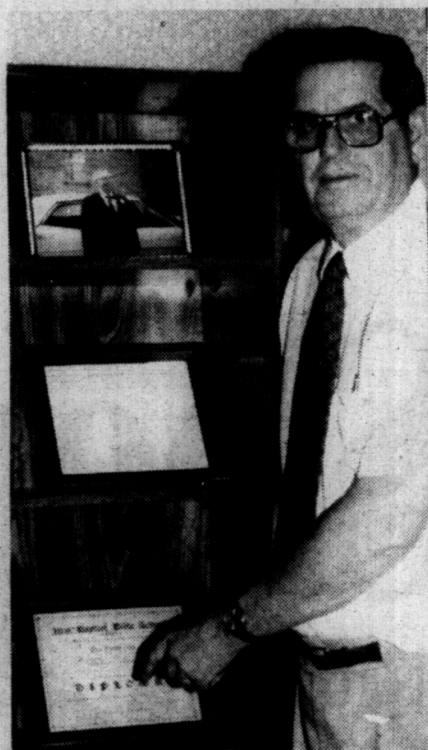
By Anne W. McWilliams

Only a chimney stands now to show where the old Crawford homeplace stood, on the second highest mountain in Mississippi, near Dry Creek and near Concord Church, Tippah County. But the Crawfords are not forgotten. A small museum occupies a place in the prayer room of Concord Church, as a memorial to Joseph H. Crawford, who two times was pastor at Concord, and who, besides his wife, is buried in the Concord cemetery.

One of the preacher's grandchildren, James Derryl Crawford, and the grandson's wife, Marjorie Lence Crawford, were responsible for the museum's being set up. Retired now and living in Ripley, he was a teacher and she a nurse. Both are members at Concord.

Notebooks in the museum meticulously list names and dates for 634 funerals and 333 weddings Crawford conducted. Strangely, twice as many died as got married! His first funeral sermon was preached in 1921, the year Concord ordained him. His wife, the former Cora Smith, kept the records.

Also the room contains pictures of the Crawfords, in their youth and in later years; framed certificates show that he was graduated from First



W. G. Dowdy, pastor of Concord Church, points out one of the items displayed in the church as a memorial to former pastor, Joseph Crawford.

Baptist Bible School, Fort Worth, Texas; papers show ownership of church and cemetery land.

In one frame is a "thank you" note written by Crawford to the church after his 90th birthday party in 1974: "I want to thank you — the pastor and others — for the party and for making my birthday such a joyous occasion. Thank you for the songs, the dinner, the cards you placed in an album, the money tree . . . I am now retiring from public service. May the Lord bless you . . ." (The day of his 90th birthday celebrations he preached three times — at Concord, Dumas, and Antioch churches.) Robert Walker was Concord pastor then.

Crawford was born at the old homeplace Nov. 17, 1884, and died Jan. 27, 1978, at age 93. He and Cora had four children.

His pastorates at Concord were during the years, 1922-34 and 1946-57. His salary for 1930 was \$11.25 and six bushels of corn. One year, in the early '20s, it was \$4 and four chickens.

Other pastorates were in Prentiss, Tippah, and Tishomingo counties. Often he would serve four churches at the time, one each Sunday of the month. He started out riding a mule from one to the other. Later he got a



Marjorie and James D. Crawford stand beside a photograph of his grandparents, the late Joseph and Cora Crawford. Joseph Crawford was pastor of Concord Church, Tippah County, twice. His grandson has set up a small museum there, in his honor.

1924 Model-T Ford. His favorite dish was 'possum and 'taters.

Converts he baptized in ponds or streams. James and Marjorie, who set up the museum in his honor, and who provided the information about Joseph Crawford for this article, were baptized by Crawford. While he was

Marjorie's pastor at Shady Grove, he baptized her, when she was 15. He baptized James, at Concord, in a stockpond when the boy was 13.

W. G. Dowdy, present pastor, moved to Concord in 1986 — 100 years after the church was first admitted to the association.

## Letters to the editor

### Reader grieves

Editor:

How you grieve me! I had hoped that Mississippi Baptists would receive an editor whose heart would be tender before God and his fellow Baptists. I see in your words the same callousness and bias that appeared in our last editor's words.

When our Heavenly Father wants Mississippi Baptists to be the main leaders of the SBC, isn't He capable of bringing this about? Is God's work a matter of who has what position?

When other mainline denominations are fighting over whether they will allow homosexuals and lesbians to be their pastors and leaders, aren't you glad that that is a fight that we Southern Baptists will not have to fight — we believe the Word — therefore, that issue and many others like it is already settled. Shouldn't all Southern Baptists be glad that we as a denomination have made clear to the whole world that we are a people who believe and attempt to practice what the Word teaches?

The folks who are leaving us are doing so because they very definitely do not believe what the large majority believe — that being the case — they should leave and with our blessings. Please try to be sensitive to those of us who stand with the vast majority of Southern Baptists.

Bobby T. Hood  
Laurel

### Satire is powerful

Editor:

I enjoy reading your editorials in the Baptist Record and appreciated especially "Time for weeping," April 11.

Satire is a powerful thing and you have handled it with a good balance. It makes us laugh at ourselves and

shakes us loose from our short sighted pretensions. We need it if we are to remain free to be human and spiritual as well.

Hal Lee  
France

### Don't cut the lifeline

Editor:

In the May 2 issue of *The Baptist Record*, Greg Snowden of Meridian wrote "The Baptist Fellowship," which has met in Atlanta May 9-11, has formulated a comprehensive cooperative giving program by which mainstream, traditional Baptist churches and individual members with integrity may continue their invaluable support of Southern Baptist missions and programs without betraying historically basic convictions."

Is he implying that churches and individuals who choose to continue to allow their CP gifts to be dispersed according to the Executive Committee's recommendation lack integrity? Surely that was not his intention!

The misplaced phrase, "with integrity" doesn't concern me as much as the suggestion that our churches begin to divert CP funds. Our HMB President, Larry Lewis, has spoken clearly and correctly on this issue: "Any effort toward negative designations, escrowed funds, diverted budgets or missions budget reductions is nothing less than a blatant, pointed attack on the Cooperative Program, the very lifeline of Southern Baptist missions support since its inception in 1925." ("People, Not Politics," *Mission USA*, September-October 1990, p. 7.)

We must not cut the lifeline. At stake is a world of lost people sinking into a sea of despair.

Philip Cooper  
Corinth

### House that love built

Editor:

We are proud to be volunteers at Jackson's Ronald McDonald House and we have a McDonald House Bumper sticker on our car! We were on our way to work a few days ago and stopped for gas. A young lady rushed up and threw her arms around my husband. "Thank you," she cried out! Somewhat taken aback my husband said, "For what?" Then he called me out of the car. Our young lady had a daughter with cancer of the liver; the child had been confined to the University Medical Center and her parents had been guests at the Ronald McDonald House. They were so very grateful! Truly this is a house that love built! If anyone is interested in a tour of the house please call (601) 981-5683.

Mrs. Donna Richardson  
Jackson

### Let's get together

Editor:

The solution to our Southern Baptist problems may be very simple. Change the appointive powers of the president and in a very few years we could realize an enlarged tent and a balance of representation.

If the messengers at the SBC met in a state caucus and nominated two to four persons from which the president would appoint the Committee on Committees, the broader representation and enlarged tent could begin almost immediately. This could be followed with a by-law change making each qualified state responsible for nominating their own members to the committee. There are details to be worked out, but it can be done. Some things to be gained are:

— Depoliticize the office of president.

— Eliminate the necessity some feel to set up alternate funding and mission plans.

— Put the wisdom of the convention in the hands of a broad representation from every state.

— Enhance the diminishing Cooperative Program receipts.

— Restore trust and integrity to all our boards, commissions, and agencies and improve the image of Southern Baptists before the world.

I wrote to President Chapman in April for his counsel but have not received a reply to date.

Reconciliation is far superior to division or disintegration. United we can still be more than we can be divided. There must be thousands of you who want reconciliation as I do. Let's become a vocal majority and do something to keep our denomination together.

P. A. Michel, pastor  
Belmont Heights Church  
Nashville

### Termination hurts members, too

Editor:

For some time I have thought of writing you on the subject of forced termination of pastors. All of the letters and comments I have seen on the subject have dealt with the effect on pastors, their families, and staff people. What about the member in the pew?

Two years ago our church here forced the pastor out. My family and I were on the "losing" side. The effect on us and the others has been great.

That Sunday morning we had people in opening assembly that had not been there since I became a member. They were called to come in and voice the preacher out. A member stood up

during the proceedings and asked what the charges were. We were told that there had been several things. Nothing was given as the reason for his termination. What had prompted the action was that our preacher had brought two little black boys to a revival service the week before. Needless to say the church emptied when they came in. Then the vote on Sunday.

The preacher is now a teacher. He pastors a small church part time, in another denomination. Another family has left the church completely. They say they will not attend this church again and will not be active in any church. All the others that voted against termination have moved their letters to another church. Most are having a hard time getting involved in church activities.

My own family has been affected. My husband has not attended in two years. He recently started going back to Sunday morning services, but says he will not become involved again.

I feel somewhat better for having written this letter. Forced termination hurts many people. Even if they don't realize it.

Name withheld by editor

### SINGULAR TALENT

I have always cherished the story of the Detroit executive whose secretary burst into his office on May 21, 1927, and cried, "Mr. Murphy, a man has just flown from New York to Paris all by himself!" When he continued to work calmly, she cried out, "You don't understand! A man has just flown the Atlantic all by himself!" Now Murphy looked up. "All by himself, a man can do anything," he said quietly. "When a committee flies the Atlantic, let me know."





# Faces and places

by Anne Washburn McWilliams



Thursday, May 23, 1991

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## Too many divorces said due to too few biblical marriages

By Mark Wingfield

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP) — America has too many divorces because there are too few biblical marriages, a Christian psychologist said.

A biblical marriage is based on commitment, not on passion or romance, said Harold Hime, national leader on youth and family services with the Home Mission Board. Hime led a seminar on a biblical model for families during the first School of Evangelism and Church Growth at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center.

Hime explained he was taking a dogmatic position in this presentation to stimulate thought. Participants were allowed to question and criticize his statements.

"Marriage is a faith thing," he said. "It's a commitment. The basis for marriage is not love, it's commitment."

"The kind of love you have when you marry is not the kind that will sustain a marriage," Hime explained. "It is not agape love, but passion."

A biblical family starts with a biblical marriage, he said. And while civil marriage is good, it does not ensure a biblical marriage.

A biblical marriage results in a couple becoming "one flesh" as the Bible says, Hime explained, noting "one flesh" has nothing to do with sexual intercourse.

"One flesh" and the admonition for a man to "cleave to his wife" could be illustrated by pressing two hands together, he said. Simply binding the hands together will cause them to rot and will not join them because the outer layer of skin will prevent bonding.

However, if that outer layer of skin is worn down by the friction of the two hands interacting with each other, the blood vessels and tissue of the hands will be exposed and able to grow together, he continued.

Once the two hands have grown together, they cannot be separated except by surgery, Hime noted. In the same way, "biblical marriage cannot end in divorce. It is absolutely impossible to stop loving once you start loving with agape love."

That doesn't mean Christian couples will not experience divorce, he said, because not all Christians have biblical marriages. "Even saints make mistakes," he said.

"We have so many condemnations about divorce, but no teachings about marriage," Hime lamented.

The church should begin teaching about biblical marriage with youth age 12 and up at least once a quarter, he said. Waiting until pre-marital counseling is too late, he added.

The church could have a more effective ministry in preventative education at the top of the hill rather than running an ambulance service to the bottom of the hill, he said.

"The best evangelism is through the family. If you get families in your church and start meeting their needs, you won't have to go visiting. People will come to you."

Wingfield writes for HMB.

## Two celebrate 25th anniversary

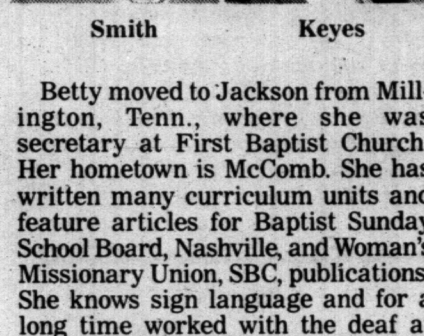
May 25 is the anniversary date of not one, but two, who began work for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board 25 years ago, Evelyn Keyes and Betty Smith.

Evelyn, who has worked the whole 25 years for the Baptist Record, is now its advertising manager. Betty Smith, who began work in the Department of Student Work, is now secretary to the executive director, Woman's Missionary Union, and is also editor of Alongside. Evelyn edits "Bits and Pieces," the Baptist Building employees' news.

Evelyn, who moved to Jackson from Laurel, lives with her sister, Peggy. Previously, she had been church secretary at Wildwood and Magnolia Street churches, Laurel, and Bossier City, La., and music director and secretary at Sandersville Church. For most of the time she's been in Jackson, she's taught 8-year-olds at Oak Forest Church.



Smith



Keyes

Betty moved to Jackson from Millington, Tenn., where she was secretary at First Baptist Church.

Her hometown is McComb. She has written many curriculum units and feature articles for Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, and Woman's Missionary Union, SBC, publications.

She knows sign language and for a long time worked with the deaf at Woodland Hills Church. Now she lives in Clinton and is a member of Pineview Church.

These two of my coffee break chums formed a friendship with each other their first day at work, and remain good buddies to this day.

Just as a kite is tied to a string and allowed to climb toward heaven in a wind that blows mightily, so we who are "tied" to Christ by the Holy Spirit. As we study the word and surrender daily to it, we are drawn heavenward toward the Father. Our hearts and minds leave earthly cares behind and yearn for heavenly things.

Just as the kite is filled with the wind and moves and has its being in it as it travels to the lengths of its string, so we are filled with the Holy Spirit and move and have our being in God as we travel the length of our years.

Just as a kite is ever straining to go a little higher skyward, so our hearts strain to know God more and more.

Just as a kite will sometimes jerk free and soar away into the wild blue yonder, so one day we will leave this earth and be joined with our Heavenly Father and family, and forever dwell.

Linda S. Leach  
Greenville, MS

## My Southaven "twin"

You know how it feels to enter a room and suddenly everyone stops talking? Or you approach a tightly coiled little group and silence falls like a net dropped from the ceiling? Last year, this happened to Violet Castle one time too many! If they all were talking about her this way, she decided, she would just resign her Sunday School class!

"They" were not plotting evil against her, but good for her, and it was supposed to be a secret until Christmas. Violet teaches Sunday School, women ages 68 and up, at Colonial Hills Church Southaven, which has been growing so fast it now has three Sunday Schools (see story on page 5). Her class members and the church staff were making a quilt to give her, with names embroidered in the squares. But they stopped handing out little packages of fabrics and plans, and told her early what was going on, because they didn't want her to resign!

Last July, she was teaching at the 9:45 a.m. Sunday School, but now she teaches at the 11 a.m. one. Twice during the year the class has divided and become yet another class, in order to encourage growth. Her husband, John, who is outreach leader, said his class has also divided twice since last July.

Since Violet and I have the same wedding anniversary, September 25, and our birthdays are both in March, a day apart, she calls herself my twin. We've been exchanging Christmas and birthday cards for several years. She married John Castle 50 years ago in Belzoni, Sept. 25, 1941. I married W.D. 14 years later, in Jackson. Her birthday is March 23 (mine is March 22) and she was born in Inverness, nine years before I was born.

Both she and her husband are retired now, and live at 7826 Charleston Drive, Southaven. John was a bookkeeper. Violet, after her three children were grown, studied at Memphis State and then taught kindergarten at Carriage Hills Church.

The night I attended prayer meeting at Colonial Hills, I met three of the Castles' nine grandchildren, and heard their son-in-law sing a solo. Their daughter, Elizabeth, plays piano at the church. John sings in the choir.

The Castles lived in Memphis a long time, she told me, before they moved to Southaven. There they were members of Broadway Church for 40 years. Later, Broadway Church moved to Mississippi, too!

I won't make any secret of the fact that if I had a twin, I'd be glad for her to be just like Violet Castle.

## Rosalee Mills Appleby, author, missionary to Brazil, dies at 96

Rosalee Mills Appleby, 96, retired Southern Baptist missionary, died of heart failure Monday, May 20, at Madison County Nursing Home in Canton.

Services were at 2 p.m. May 21 at First Baptist Church in Canton with burial in Black Jack Baptist Church Cemetery near Vaughan.

Mrs. Appleby, an Oxford native, had lived and served as a missionary in Brazil for 36 years before moving to Canton in 1960. She was known in the United States and in Brazil for many books she wrote, including *The Life*

*Beautiful and White Wings of Splendor*.

Mrs. Appleby attended Oklahoma Baptist University and Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky., where she met David P. Appleby. They married in 1924 and moved to Brazil after their appointment as missionaries. Mr. Appleby died in 1925, and she remained in Brazil with her infant son to continue her missionary work.

She established many churches and was responsible for the education of many young Brazilians. An orphanage and a school in Brazil are

named in her honor. Oklahoma Baptist University established *The Life Beautiful* award in her honor.

Mrs. Appleby retired in 1960, and moved to Canton, where she continued to maintain relationships in Brazil.

Survivors include: son, David P. Appleby of Charleston, Ill.; sister, Mattie Mae Biggins of Pea Ridge, Ark.; a granddaughter; and two great-granddaughters.

Memorials may be made to the Foreign Mission Board, SBC, for missionary work in Brazil.

## "Hints and signs"

By Gary Bagley

In her book, *Eighth Day of Creation*, Elizabeth O'Connor says, "... every child's life gives forth hints and signs of the way that he is to go. The parent who knows how to meditate, stores these hints and signs away and ponders over them. We are to treasure the intimations of the future that the life of every child gives to us so that, instead of unconsciously putting blocks in his way, we help him to fulfill his destiny. That is not an easy way to follow. Instead of telling our children what they should do and become, we must be humble before their wisdom, believing that in them and not in us is the secret that they need to discover."



Bagley

Eric Hoffer tells a story about a Bavarian peasant woman who cares for him after his mother died and during the years that he was blind: "And the woman, this Martha took care of me. She was a big woman, with a small head. And this woman, this Martha, must have really loved me, because those eight years of blindness are in my mind as a happy time. I remember a lot of talk and laughter. I must have talked a great deal, because Martha used to say again and again, 'You remember you said this, you remember you said that...' She remembered everything I said, and all my life I've had the feeling that what I think and what I say are worth remembering. She gave me that..."

Bagley is pastor, First Church, Meridian.









# Just for the Record

Thursday, May 23, 1991

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 11

Southside Church, Lucedale, will observe its 20th anniversary and homecoming celebration, Sunday, June 2. Tom Miller is pastor.

The Louisiana State Singles Convention will meet at First Church, New Orleans, June 21-23. The key note speaker will be Becky Pippit with music by Nancy Honeytree. Registration fee is \$17.50 with additional \$10 for three meals (including dinner theatre and a crawfish boil). For more information, call Family Ministry Department, Louisiana Convention (1-800-622-6549) or First Church (504-895-8632).



Mrs. Mary Helen Reynolds, WMU director at Heucks Retreat Church, Brookhaven, is shown presenting a check for \$1,989 to Greg Potts, pastor. The check was given by the church to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions. The majority of this money was taken up in one Sunday in an "All The Way In One Day" emphasis. This is the largest amount of money ever given by the church to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. The previous high was \$1,803 which was given in 1989.

The church also had an "All The Way In One Day" emphasis in December 1990 for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. The church gave a total of \$4,378 to foreign missions which was the largest amount ever given. The majority of this money was given in one Sunday.

Macedonia Church, Mendenhall, Simpson Co., will observe its 150th anniversary on June 2. Bobby Thornton will bring the morning message, followed by dinner on the grounds. Afternoon services are from 1:30-2:30. Old fashion dress is optional.

## Correction

Philip and Sheila Marshall have been appointed as missionaries to Thailand. An article concerning their appointment appeared in the April 25, 1991 Baptist Record. One important item was omitted, accidentally. That is that since 1988 Marshall has been pastor of Mount Vernon Baptist Church, Newton, Miss.



Oral Church, Lamar Association, had ground breaking services for a fellowship hall and Sunday School rooms on Feb. 17 following the morning services. Pictured are members of the building committee, front row, left to right, Gary Hagan, Annie Rose Griffith, Robert Simmons, and Larry Rawls; back row, Acker Smith, Harvey Fillingame, and Steve Terrell. Not available for picture were B. J. Barrett, pastor, Coy Rawls, and David Hagan.

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Fourteen youth and their leaders of First Church, Flowood, picked up litter on March 2. The youth group has been assigned a two-mile section of highway 475 just west of the Jackson International Airport by the State Highway Department of Mississippi and are required to pick up the litter twice a year.



Antioch Church, south of Pelahatchie, celebrated the burning of the note on their new fellowship hall, April 7. Shown from left to right are Don Carter and Frank Huff, deacons; Larry Duncan, pastor; C. H. Means, finance committee member; Lavoy Wilkinson, deacon and chairman of the finance committee; Ronald Palmer, chairman of the deacon board; Robert Patrick, finance committee; Paul Arender, deacon; and G. B. Bowman, deacon. James McKay, deacon and finance committee member, was not present.



The Young Musicians of First Church, Collinsville, received a superior rating for their performance during the State Young Musicians Choral Festival held in Clinton recently. The fourth, fifth, and sixth graders competed for the first time. Members of the choir, pictured, left to right, front row, are Holly Jones, Dustin Smith, Alan Green, Brooke Joyner, Kristi Hutchinson, Beth Howard, Kylie Ethridge, Jennifer Pouncey; back row, music director Charles Hinson, Matthew Parker, Josh Todd, choir director Maureen Sellers, and Derrick Ford. Not pictured are Rachelle White, Jo Beth Lanon, and Hollie Campe.

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- Praise and Warfare

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# Names in the news



West Corinth Church, Corinth, honored Mrs. Corrinna Russell for her service as president of the WMU for over 20 years. Pictured, left to right, are Gary A. White, pastor; Brenda Harbin, current WMU president; Russell; and Ed Gandy, director of missions for Alcorn Association.

William Phillips is available for supply and interim work. He has pastored churches in Mississippi, Arkansas, and Tennessee. His last pastorate was Amaziah Church, Union County, where he served 12½ years. Phillips is supportive of Southern Baptist Convention causes and is sound in his doctrine, according to Charlie Ransier, pastor of Amaziah Church. "He is an excellent supply person," Ransier said. Phillips can be reached at (601) 333-7576 or Route 1, Box 316, Hickory Flat, MS 38633.



Charles N. Case Sr. was guest speaker for recent chapel services on the Clarke College campus. He spent 15 years as missionary to the Navajo Indians in New Mexico. Case is pastor of Macedonia Church in Simpson County. Pictured with him is his son, Charlie, who is presently a music major at Clarke College.

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## Homecomings

**First Church, Marion (Lauderdale):** 125th anniversary; May 26; services, 11 a.m.; L. B. Simmons, Decatur, guest speaker; dinner on the grounds, noon; Walter Blackman, pastor.

**Friendship Church, Brookhaven:** May 26; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship service, 11 a.m.; old-fashioned "dinner on the grounds," at noon; followed by afternoon service; James Alfred Case, pastor, Eddiceton Church, Eddiceton, guest speaker for both services; Harold Luther Smith, music; Wiley Reid, pastor; contributions made will go to Church Cemetery Fund.

**Concord Church (Franklin):** May 26; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; Hubert Whitten, speaker for the morning service; dinner on the grounds to follow; service, 1:15 p.m., special music and business of the cemetery in the afternoon; donations for the Cemetery Fund may be sent to the Bank of Franklin, Meadville, MS 39653.

**Antioch Church (Lawrence):** May 26; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; speaker, Bruce Brady; lunch at noon in fellowship hall; singing in afternoon; John Hedgpeth is pastor.

**Trace Ridge Church, Ridgeland:** May 26; 13th anniversary, "Celebration Sunday"; service at 10:45 a.m.; dinner-on-the-ground; Ed McDaniel, pastor.

**Arlington Church, Bogue Chitto (Lincoln):** May 26; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner, noon; Ferrell Cork, pastor of Van Winkle Church, Jackson, guest preacher; Buddy and Patricia Russell, music; offering of the day will go toward fellowship hall debt; afternoon singing with Kathy Sasser, Mona and Rose Wise, Sharon King of Wesson, the Brown Sisters, the "Messengers" of Brookhaven, Opal Burt, Arlington Handbell Choir; John Alexander, interim pastor.

**Thornhill Church, Pelahatchie:** May 26; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; services, 11 a.m.; dinner on the grounds following; singing service featuring "The Voices of Praise," Forest, 1:30 p.m.; love offering will be taken; Rudy James, pastor.

**Lula Church (Hinds-Madison):** June 2; 90th anniversary celebration; homecoming day; dinner on the grounds. Lula Church is located at Kennebrow Road, Pochahontas.

**Rock Hill Church (Rankin):** May 26; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; E. J. Slonaker, guest speaker; lunch at noon; Tim Canterbury, pastor.

**Duffee Church, Little Rock (Newton):** May 26; services, 11 a.m.; Allen C. Johnson, former pastor, now of Zachary, La., message; lunch in fellowship hall, 12:30 p.m.; afternoon singing, the Revelations Quartet, 1:30 p.m.; John D. West, pastor.

**County Line Church, State Line (Wayne):** May 26; service, 11 a.m.; dinner on the grounds, noon; afternoon service, 1:30 p.m.; Mon-Fri., revival services nightly, 7 p.m.; Justin Pitts, evangelist; Ron Swindle, minister of music.

**Mesa Church, Tylertown:** May 26; Sunday School, 10 a.m. and services, 11 a.m.; covered dish dinner will follow services and conclude with singing service; no evening service; Troy Bankston, message; Brian Broome, pastor.

**Johnson Creek Church (Greene):** May 26; services, 11 a.m.; dinner on grounds in fellowship hall, 12:30; afternoon singing, 1:30; no night services; Emmett Boone, Petal, guest speaker; The Gulf City Boys, guest singers; Keith Thompson, pastor.

**Heucks Retreat Church, Brookhaven (Lincoln):** May 26; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner on the grounds, noon; special afternoon singing and memorial service; Greg Potts, pastor, speaker; Tim Moak, minister of music and youth, music; offering taken for the upkeep of the cemetery.

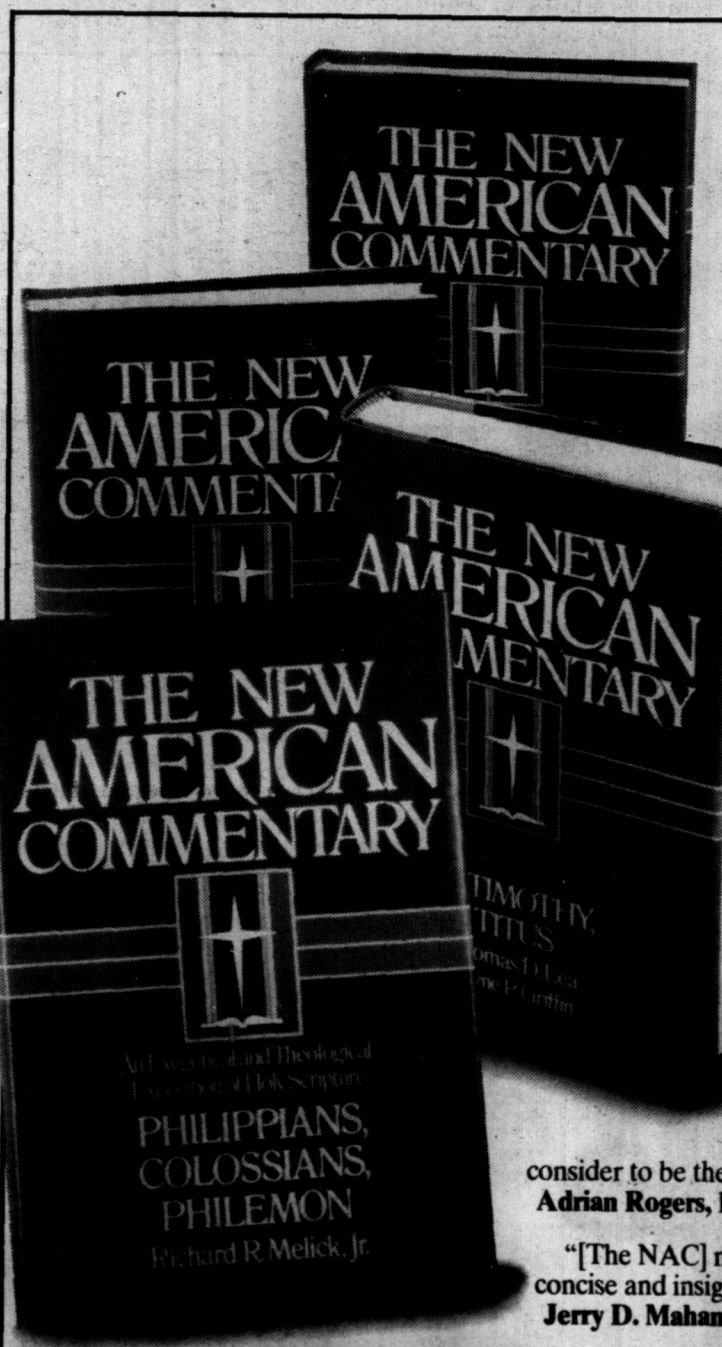
**Roundaway Church, Doddsville (Sunflower):** May 26; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner on the grounds, noon; memorial service, 1 p.m.; afternoon singing with guest quartet following; no night services; Fred Hutto, pastor.

## Staff changes

Tony Henry has resigned as pastor of Springfield Church, Leake Association. He is now available for supply and revivals. Henry can be reached at P. O. Box 276, Walnut Grove, MS 39189, (601) 253-2232.

## Just for the Record

Terry Road Church, Jackson, will observe its third anniversary on May 26. Baby dedication will also be held. The church now has 100 members, 90 enrolled in Sunday School, and a budget of \$50,000.



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## Book reviews

**CLOTHED IN WHITE** by Ray G. Register Jr.; (Broadman, paper, 192 pp.) This is the inspiring story of Mavis Pate, Southern Baptist missionary who was killed in Gaza in 1972 when Arab commandos mistook the car in which she was riding for an Israeli army vehicle. Mavis, a nurse from Louisiana, served on the ship, S.S. Hope, and then as a missionary in Thailand and East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) before transferring to Gaza. Author of her biography, Ray Register is a mission representative in Israel. The book's final chapter, "Again: Why Mavis?", a touching tribute, tells how through this young woman's death, God touched other missionaries in Gaza. — AWM

**How To Help Your Friends** by Joe E. Richardson Jr., 96 pp, \$4.05. Christian helps for peer counseling.

Other publishers:

**Gently Lead** by Polly Berrien Berrends, 172 pp, Harper-Collins Press, \$18.95. How to teach your children about God while finding out for yourself.

**Riches For the Mind and Spirit** by John Marks Templeton, 290 pp, Harper-Collins Press, \$16.95. Treasury of words to help, inspire, and live by.

**What Can We Do About Church Dropouts?** by C. Kirk Hadaway, 134 pp, Abingdon Press. Reclaiming the estranged.

**MAKING THE MOST OF THE BEST OF YOUR LIFE** by Kathryn Grant with Penny Giesbrecht (Hannibal Books, Hannibal, Mo., 185 pp., paper, \$9.95.) For the mature woman, the best is yet to come. That is what Kathryn Grant believes, according to

her new book, *Making the Most of the Best of Your Life*. For the mature woman, she has written chapters on prayer, discovering opportunities for ministry, deliverance from fear, deepening intimacy in marriage, building friendships with adult children, caring for aged parents, and dealing with personal illness.

Mrs. Grant and her husband, Worth, live in West Palm Beach, Fla. where she is currently assistant to the president for women's affairs at Palm Beach Atlantic College. They are former missionaries to Japan; she has also served as director of Baptist Women for the District of Columbia Baptist Convention. Her book is wise, as well as interesting, reading. — AWM

**CABIN FEVER ON NOAH'S ARK** by Brooks R. Faulkner (Broadman Press, Nashville; \$5.95, 1991).

After 150 days, Noah and his family were sick of each other. They were confined. They had "cabin fever." But, it was better than the storm and flood outside. They had to adjust. They needed patience and tolerance. They also needed a change. Ministers are like that. They lead the spiritual journey for others. But, they can get sick of each other, too. They can get cabin fever, but it's still better than the alternative.

This series of devotionals is an "inside look," written with the purpose of rediscovering the sense of wonder and mystery of the Christian faith. It's written for pastors, church staff members, and other church leaders. Each of these audiences has unique spiritual needs — not more than others, not less, but unique. Our familiarity with devotional ideas tends to create some cynicism with trite, spiritual clichés for us. We need fresh, spiritual eye-openers.

Ministers and church leaders are isolated. We spend much energy leading the devotional life of others. So much, in fact, that depletion slips in on us. I can use the word us with integrity because it has happened to me. I get so hungry to be fed spiritually.

Some of the devotionals are — Half Mystic, Half Mutt; An Omelet Is Several Broken Eggs; Bumper-Sticker Christians; Squeeze the Turnip; The Minister and the Green-Eyed Monster; The Merits of Mediocrity; Moses Was Not an NBA Superstar; Elijah Had Warts; Bathing in Baloney; Small Sheep Make Cranky Shepherds. — BRF

### Revival results

**Cloverdale Church, Natchez:** May 1-5; Johnny Garrett, Belmont, La., preaching; Butch Hosea, Natchez, music; three professions of faith; Weyland Gauntt, pastor.

### Revival dates

**Hazel Church, Lake:** June 2-7; Sunday, 10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Lehman Strauss, Escondido, Calif., Bible teacher and Bible conference speaker; Marion Felton, Lawrence, Hazel Church, music; Randall Creel, pastor.

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Thursday, May 23, 1991

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 13

## Missionaries on furlough

Furloughing missionaries in Mississippi are:

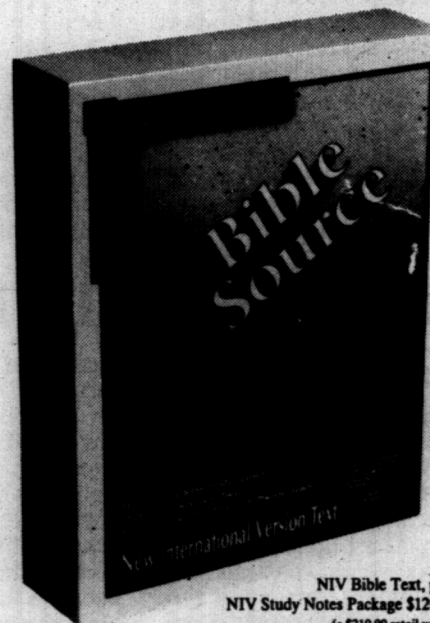
**Charles and Nita Boudreaux**, Guyana, 107 Clinton Blvd., D-2, Clinton, phone 924-9657, arrival: 7/90; departure: 6/91. **John and Claudie Brown**, Mozambique, 919 Reeves Street, Jackson 39204, phone 371-2344, arrival: 9/90; departure: 6/91. **Rick and Nedra Carter**, Argentina, 108 S. 17th Avenue, Hattiesburg 39401, phone 582-3744, arrival: 8/90; departure: 7/91. **Paul and Hannah Gay**, Ethiopia, 1606 Pear Orchard Place, Jackson 39211, phone 957-1394, arrival: 8/90;

departure: 7/91. **James and Dottie Gilbert**, Panama, 223\* Nicholson Avenue, Waveland 39576, phone 466-2908, arrival 4/91; departure: 1/92.

**Eddie and Marilyn Graves**, Chile, 704 Ponderosa Drive, Starkville 39759, phone 323-4216, arrival: 11/90; departure: 6/91. **Betty Hart**, Chile, Box 1, Sandy Hook 39478, phone 736-3874, arrival: 3/91; departure: 7/91. **Steven and Minnie Hicks**, Mexico, 506 Jeff Davis at Fifth, Long Beach 39560, phone 868-8389, arrival: 12/90; departure: 8/91. **Lloyd Luncford**, Taiwan, 3684 Lakeland Lane, D-3, Jackson

39216, phone 362-3402, arrival: 1/91; departure: 7/91. **Dennis and Sherrie Meilstrup**, Argentina, Rt. 3, Box 146, Meridian 39301, phone 693-7186, arrival: 6/90; departure: 6/91.

**Donald and Rose McCain**, Portugal, 5107 Myrtle, Moss Point 39563, phone 475-0362, arrival: 7/90; departure: 6/91. **Steve and Vidonia Smith**, Argentina, 27 Kimberly Drive, Laurel 39440, phone 649-8843, arrival: 6/90; departure: 6/91. **Roger and Penny Stacy**, South Brazil, 520 Magazine Street, Tupelo 38801, phone 489-1692, arrival: 7/90; departure: 7/91.



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## "Family 88" radio soon to go on air

Mississippi's first fulltime, non-commercial Christian radio station will soon be on the air. WAFR-FM in Tupelo should begin broadcasting around toward the end of June or early July, depending on weather conditions which will allow the construction of the tower to go forward.

"We want to serve the Christian community in our area," said Donald E. Wildmon, president of American Family Association. Family 88 is a broadcasting ministry of American Family Association. The station's signal will reach northeast Mississippi along with parts of northwest Alabama and southwest Tennessee.

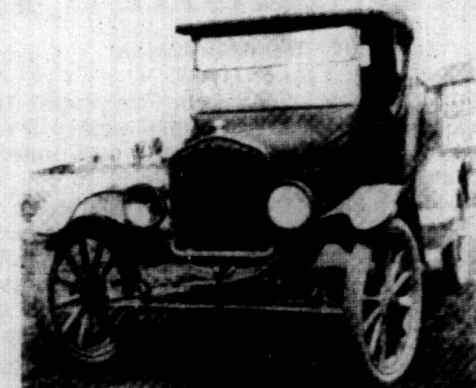
The station will be a non-commercial, listener-supported station operating at 88.3 FM. It will feature middle of the road Christian music, favorite hymns, news features, and syndicated programs, according to Wildmon. Also, he said the station plans to air some programs produced by the Southern Baptist Convention and programs from other denominations.

He said that the station will have a power of 50,000 watts with a 500 foot tower allowing it to reach a wide area.

The Federal Communications Commission recently granted AFA the license, following efforts to secure it for the past four years.

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# Complacency prevents experiencing the fullness of God

By Benny Still  
Ephesians 3:14-21

In our day of "quick-fix" mentality, few will feel satisfied or "fulfilled" by the gradual process of becoming that mature, well-grounded, disciple God desires for us. If we discipline ourselves to respond to the leadership of the Holy Spirit instead of "doing our own thing," there is the promise of spiritual fulfillment offered by God. Then we can offer unrestrained praise to God and experience his unfathomable power in our lives and in the church as well. Let's evaluate our spiritual lives in light of Paul's prayer as recorded here in verses 14-21.

Prayer should reflect an attitude of deep reverence and earnestness. It is not some magical incantation to attain the things we want most in life. Paul's humility before the Father is evidenced in verse 14: "For this reason I kneel before the Father." Paul had a sincere desire that Christians might enter fully into all the privileges God has for them. I'm reminded of the guy who saved and worked — and worked and saved. He had a health insurance policy that was second to none. It would



Still

## LIFE AND WORK

pay 100 percent of claims made. When the man became ill, rather than using his insurance policy, he dipped into his savings. He did this again and again until his savings had deteriorated in much the same fashion as did his health. When asked why he never filed on his insurance policy, he replied, "I was afraid they might cancel my policy!" Are we like that when it comes to appropriating the blessings of God in our lives? If we never file a claim on the policy of God's blessings, how will we ever know his unlimited power? Malachi 3 encourages us to "test" or "prove" the Lord as to his willingness and ability to make good his promises to those who love him. We Christians need to realize that our policy with Jesus cannot be cancelled for it is written in his blood! We are a part of the family of God if we have trusted Jesus. He becomes Lord as we relinquish control of every area of our living to him.

As for status and prestige, we all know those people who get a thrill and an ego boost by being close to someone famous. You know the type: they like to "hob-nob" with the "big-wigs." As members of the company of the redeemed, we are in the one great family of God the

Father. How much more prestigious can you get than that (v. 15)? Paul voices a bold request for spiritual fulfillment out of God's unlimited resources in verse 16. Our fulfillment should never be measured by the accumulation of material things ("keeping up with the Joneses" syndrome). If we would become fit vessels through which the Lord can manifest himself, then we need to seek the power of the Holy Spirit in our inner lives. True fulfillment will be accomplished in our lives only as we align our wills with God's will. Trying to align his will with ours will never do!

I just love to be around folks who are unreserved in this display of Christian love. They have a ready handshake, smile, and a hug. They exhibit a genuine display of God's love. There are other Christians who are "stand-offish" in their greetings — to the point of being "stuffy." Could it be the way we greet folks is directly related to how well we understand the width and length and height and depth of Christ's love for us? In verse 17-18 Paul says that if we are rooted and established in love, then we will have the understanding we need to show our brothers and sisters in the Lord! I believe that Paul's prayer here challenges the complacency of self-satisfied people.

Sometimes we choose not to let the Lord carry on his redemptive work through us. The fruits of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22 are at-

tributes to which all Christians have access. God is not only able, he is also willing to bestow the totality of his blessings in our lives (v. 19). We are the "blockers of his blessing" when we refuse his grace. That he will supply our needs is a wonderful promise (Philippians 4:19). We miss so much of God when we don't allow him the opportunity to work in our lives.

Look at verse 20: "... [God] is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us." Oh, God is able alright! The question is, are we willing to let him do what he wants to do in and through us?

People want evidence that God is alive and well. People want to see proof that God cares for his children. Let's begin to appropriate his power and blessings in our lives. Let's allow him to do what he wants for a change. God's power to supply all the needs of individuals and of the church is at work to the extent we allow it to be. Let's allow the glory of God to shine through our redeemed lives and churches. Self-satisfaction and complacency are closely kin. If Jesus is not being lifted up in your life, guess who is? Many of us are more empty than we think. Let's allow the fullness of God "to dwell in us richly." We'll be better for it — and so will those around us!

Still is pastor, Poplar Springs Church, Mendenhall.

# "Christians must share wealth to help others"

By Ruth N. Allen  
2 Corinthians 8:1-15

Jesus' teaching on the subject of wealth and the stewardship of property is most dominant as Matthew contains 109 references to this subject, Mark, 57, Luke, 94, and John, 88. Jesus spoke about five times as often on the use of earthly possessions as he did any other subject, and the only quotation from Jesus outside of the Gospels treats of possessions. Few congregations, if any, will object to a pastor who is "always preaching on money." Yet, Jesus talked five times as much about the stewardship of property as about prayer.

Mark Twain is credited with having remarked, "People are always talking about the weather, but no one ever does anything about it." Something like that may be said about love for Jesus. One talks a great deal about love for him but does very little to show it. Jesus cares not at all for the songs and words of love if his sheep and lambs are not fed. "If you love me," he challenges, "keep my commandments." Paul



Allen

## UNIFORM

had this in mind when he urged the Corinthians, "Prove the sincerity of your love."

In the day in which Paul wrote, there was a great use of pottery in the home and in business. Some of the pottery makers covered over flaws by using wax which was smoothed over. Consequently, customers were never sure if they were purchasing quality pottery. Competent pottery makers placed signs over their doorways which read "sine cera," made without wax. From these words comes the word "sincerity," which means "without flaw or blemish."

The kind of giving Jesus demands is that which comes from the heart. It is giving with no thought of return or ulterior motive.

Paul commends the giving of the churches of Macedonia, who gave because they had experienced the grace of God. The gauge of giving is always in proportion to the understanding of the grace of God in one's life. No one who truly understands the work of grace in the heart of a Christian can withhold their gifts to God.

God, himself, does not need gifts. The wealth of God and his ownership of the world are in-

dicative of the truth. Giving is compared to the farmer who was asked how much milk his cow gives each day. He replied, "She doesn't give any at all. However, we take several gallons from her. She is better off and so are we." Believers differ from the cow, in that God does not take it away; but God works a miracle of grace in lives that make his followers want to give to others who are in need. One gives, also, because this is the means whereby some people come to know Jesus. One gives to help those who are less fortunate and may have encountered hardship or troubles. One gives because of a desire, for Jesus has first given himself.

The Macedonian Christians gave because of the grace of God, which they had experienced in their own lives. They gave beyond their means because of the special needs and the special love they had for their Lord. They "urgently pleaded" (v. 4) for the opportunity to help others. They considered the act of giving a privilege of service. The Macedonian Christians genuinely met the test of sincerity.

The believers of Macedonia were overjoyed to be able to give. Years ago a London newspaper offered a prize for the best definition of "money." The young man who won the

prize offered this as his definition: "Money is an article which may be used as a universal passport to everywhere but heaven, and as a universal provider of everything but happiness." Not only did the Macedonian Christians give out of their poverty and want, but also they did it cheerfully and were happy for the privilege. What a challenge offered to believers!

Christians today must understand that Jesus, though he owned everything in the world, became poor for their sakes that they might be rich. If he has made them rich, then Christians must share their wealth to ease suffering and to help win the world to Jesus.

Paul urged the Corinthians to finish the work which they had begun a year before. All he asked of them was a willingness. If one has willingness, the gift is acceptable. God does not expect one to give what he does not have, but he does expect one to give of that which he does have! God has always expected equality in giving to the degree one has been blessed.

God provided manna in the wilderness. Each person had exactly what he needed. God promises to provide, and he expects those who receive his gifts to love enough to help others.

Allen lives in Jackson. She is wife of Judd Allen, pastor, Ogden Church, Bentonla.

# Absalom's burning ambition finally burns Absalom

By Jerry Vardaman  
2 Sam. 15:1-16:14

All of us have known ambitious people. Ambition is not necessarily an evil quality. It can be used for worthy purposes or for self-centered purposes.

The person whose life we continue to study was self-centered in his ambition. We look deeper into those plans and procedures which Absalom followed in seeking to overthrow his father David. It is difficult, if not impossible, to find one redeeming quality in the type of self-serving ambition which dominated all of the actions of Absalom. Strangely, the name Absalom means "peace of his father" but, as we all know, Absalom never ceased to bring his father difficulty and grief.

Absalom's ambition and outward show: (15:1-6) When Absalom's plans of takeover became his one fixed purpose, we note his tactics. He wanted to impress everyone with his sense of power and prestige. He lined up 50 men to run before his chariot and horses (unlike the other sons of King David who could only ride on mules — 2 Sam. 13:29). He learned the names of many people — like clever politicians today, and pretended to think only of their interests — while having his own agenda foremost in mind and using innocent people for his evil



Vardaman

purposes (cf. 15:11).

Absalom disguised his program of takeover as a religious cause: Did he call David an ungodly man? (Absalom had killed his brother and had no room for boasting). Did he call David an adulterer? Soon Absalom defiled himself by going to bed with his father's concubines (16:22). Absalom reminds us of King Herod who pretended that he wanted to worship Jesus when he learned of his birth, but Herod actually wanted to kill Jesus (Matt. 2:8). Absalom told David that he only wanted to go to Hebron in order to "worship the Lord" and fulfill his religious vows "four years" after his return from Geshur (15:7-12; we follow the RSV here, and not the "40 years" of the KJV). David respected genuine religious inclinations more than Absalom, and gave him leave to go to Hebron to fulfill his vow.

Absalom's "religious" program was soon revealed to be a political program. As mentioned in the previous lesson, Hebron was displeased with David since he had moved the capital from there to Jerusalem, so Absalom knew his audience and knew that if he could reach the right people, the land would be ready to overthrow, and his own self-centered agenda of control could be carried out.

Absalom deceived the people who supported him: He could not challenge David's old advisor, Hushai (15:32-37) and his authority. Hushai was more learned and experienced than Ahithophel, Absalom's new advisor. When one later reads Hushai's advice in contrast to that of Ahithophel (17:5-14), one is struck at once with the brilliance and powers of persuasion belonging to Hushai. Eventually, the crowd around Absalom thins out and people turn against him. When he is finally killed, it is by the hand of Joab who at one time had befriended him. All it takes for demagogues to lose power is for people eventually to see how miserable the state of their friends soon becomes. They often ruin those associated with them. His "friend" Ahithophel finally committed suicide (17:23).

Absalom broke promises to his supporters: Absalom disappointed the people of Hebron. He made Jerusalem his new capital and did not change it back to Hebron. He could not please both the people of Jerusalem and Hebron at the same time any more than David was able to do. Truly religious people did not follow Absalom. They already knew what kind of person he was. Their loyalties were with David and they constantly kept David informed about the situation in Jerusalem and of the misdeeds of Absalom (15:24-37). Absalom's good looks physically speaking did not unduly impress these kinds of people (2 Sam. 14:25-27).

Absalom's weaknesses finally burn him: Absalom had told multitudes around him that

David was guilty of delay, and if only he were judge things would immediately be set right (15:3, 4). Yet when Absalom became king, he made some grave mistakes with his judgments. Because he did not immediately pursue David, David was able to consolidate his forces, and finally to defeat Absalom. David inspired such loyalty that even his foreign mercenary forces (the Cretans and Philistines of Gath) rallied to him and cast their lot with him in his sufferings (15:18-23).

The final element in Absalom which did him in was his hatred of his father. He would not be satisfied until he killed David. David was so tender in his affections for his wayward son that he ordered his men to spare his life. When Absalom's hatred drove him into the region of Transjordan where David took refuge (he was at Mahanaim — the old capital Saul's son, Ishbaal, and his general, Abner, had previously used) then he would be killed. Ironically, that hair, that he was so proud of, caused his death when it was caught in a tree. He had misused his good looks to deceive; now he was deceived by his own assets. Absalom's burning ambition finally burned him — like Macbeth in Shakespeare's great play. There is much in the account of Absalom which is instructive — for those who have eyes to see and ears to hear — in our own day and time.

"Give a rascal enough rope, and he will hang himself." One thinks of this old proverb about Absalom, hung from the tree in Transjordan! Vardaman is professor of archaeology, MSU.



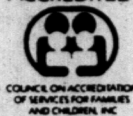
# THE VILLAGE VIEW

The Baptist Children's Village

Ronny E. Robinson, Executive Director

ACCREDITED

P. O. Box 27,  
Clinton, MS 39060-0027  
(601) 922-2242



## Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of the Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

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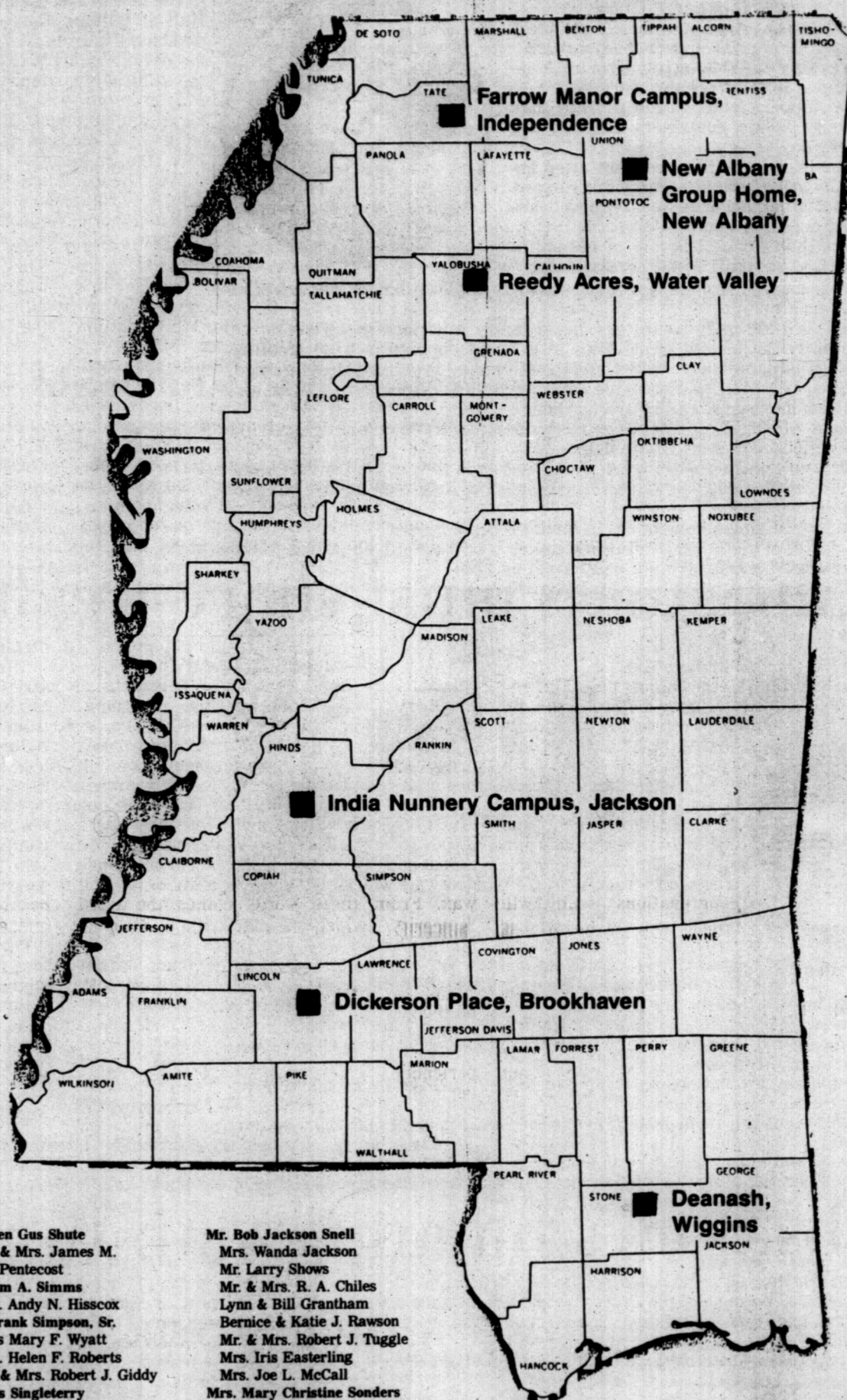
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(To be continued)

The Baptist Children's Village, from all of our six locations, thanks all of you for remembering us during "Christian Home Week" and on Mother's Day. Your many prayers were felt and appreciated. We thank you also for remembering us monetarily. We have already begun to receive those Mother's Day gifts. These gifts will assure young people all over the state of Mississippi a safe and loving, Christian home. If you or your church have not yet mailed your gift please send it to: The Baptist Children's Village, P. O. Box 27, Clinton, MS 39060-0027.



## ENVIRONMENTAL FACTS

## THE GARBAGE GLUT

- The average American family produces about 100 pounds of garbage per week.
- An estimated 44 billion pounds of trash are dumped into the oceans every year.
- The shipping industry dumps more than 450,000 plastic containers into the sea every day.
- More than one billion trees are used annually to manufacture disposable diapers.
- About 70 percent of all metal products are used one time and then discarded.
- More than 200 million tons of pesticides are used annually in California alone.
- Plywood emits formaldehyde and is one of the home's biggest sources of indoor pollution.
- Each year 220 million tires are discarded by American motorists.
- Currently, 80 percent of solid waste is being dumped in 6,000 landfills. Another 10 percent is recycled, and the remaining 10 percent is incinerated.
- Each year 1.7 billion disposable pens, 500 million disposable lighters, and 2 billion disposable razors are trashed.
- Enough aluminum is discarded every three months to completely rebuild our nation's commercial air fleet.
- Over 3 million automobiles are abandoned each year in the United States.
- Packaging accounts for \$1 of every \$11 spent for food. One-third of our garbage is packaging.
- The largest single component in landfills is newspaper.
- Only 6,000 of the 20,000 landfills operating in 1978 are still operating. 14,000 have closed and 2,000 more will be full by 1993.



## FIXUP FACTS

- The smallest drip of a leaky faucet can waste over 50 gallons of water per day. Only 3 percent of the world's water is fresh water.
- Reducing your thermostat only one degree reduces your heating bill 2 percent.
- A single houseplant can reduce hazardous indoor pollution by up to 67 percent in only 24 hours.
- Composting food and yard waste can reduce garbage by as much as 28 percent.
- By recycling, the average family can save 6 pounds of glass per person, per month.
- Only 20 percent of plastic soda bottles are currently being recycled.
- Only 5 percent of the hazardous waste in homes is taken to one of the 23 existing collection centers in the United States.
- Recycling motor oil prevents soil and water contamination.
- The average person throws out 6 pounds of steel/tin cans per month. These cans can be recycled.
- Aluminum foil, as well as cans, can be recycled. Each aluminum can recycled saves 95 percent of the energy needed to produce one new can.
- Plastic bags can be washed, reused and when discarded, they can be recycled.
- Buying items in recycled packaging and refusing products that are over-packaged reduces solid waste.
- When replacing appliances, recycle discarded ones through salvage yards or charitable collection centers and shop for energy efficient replacements.
- Energy Miser incandescent light bulbs save energy while long-life bulbs use more energy than standard bulbs.
- Become better educated by reading for ways to be a better steward of our world.

## RECYCLING RESOURCES

## Books

*The Recycler's Handbook* by The Earth Works Group, Berkeley, CA: The Earthworks Press, 1990.

*50 Simple Things You Can Do to Save the Earth* by The Earth Works Group, Berkeley, CA: The Earthworks Press, 1989.

*The Green Consumer* by John Elkington, Julia Hailes and Joel Makower. New York: Penguin Books, 1990.

*Save Our Planet* by Diane MacEachern. New York: A Dell Trade Paperback, 1990.

## Magazines

*It Worked for Me! How I Helped Save the Planet!* by Deborah Heiligman. Parents Magazine, April 1991.

*Garbage: The Practical Journal for the Environment*. P. O. Box 56519, Boulder, CO 80322-6579 (\$21 per year).

## Pamphlets

"The Bible Speaks on Ecology," The Christian Life Commission, 901 Commerce Street, Suite 550, Nashville, TN 37203-3696 (17 cents each).

"Recycling: A Christian Stewardship," The Christian Life Commission, 901 Commerce Street, Suite 550, Nashville, TN 37203-3696 (6 cents each).

Published by the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, 901 Commerce Street, Suite 550, Nashville, Tennessee 37203-3696.

## Carey dedicates prayer room

The new prayer room in Lawrence Hall at William Carey College was dedicated during the spring conference of the directors of missions on the Hattiesburg campus, April 27. The prayer room was refurbished by faculty and students during the first semester. It was dedicated in honor of Miss Trugen Beard of Hattiesburg.

Miss Beard taught in the public schools of Hattiesburg and was an active member of Main Street Church. She provided financial assistance for ministerial students at the college and upon her death, her estate was left to the college to provide a ministerial scholarship and funds for the renovation of Lawrence Hall.

## Fulbright selects Carey grad

David Davis, a 1976 graduate of William Carey College, has been selected to participate in the 1991 Fulbright-Hays Seminars Abroad program. He will take part in the seminar, "Indonesia and the Challenge of Development." Davis's specific contribution will be research on the role of Islam in the economic development of the Achinese of Northern Sumatra.

This is the second time that Davis has received a Fulbright Fellowship, one of the most prestigious honors in American education. He was the recipient of a fellowship in 1983 for a year of archaeological research in Africa.

Davis is currently assistant professor of history at Millsaps College in Jackson. After completion of the B.A. in history and Biblical studies at Carey, he completed the M.A. in history at Baylor University, and the Ph.D. in history at Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill.

He is the son of Ralph and Cora Joyce Davis of Hattiesburg, retired missionaries to Ghana.

## CBS will air new "spiritual sitcom"

TUPELO (American Family Association) — Television producer Norman Lear, who founded the left-wing political group, People for the American Way, says traditional religious groups have failed to answer the spiritual needs of America.

Lear plans to meet the needs in his new program "Sunday Dinner," scheduled to begin on CBS May 26.

American Way, the publication of American Airlines, called the program a "spiritual sitcom." In an interview with columnist Doug Nye, Lear said: "I look now at the '90s, and this country suffers a deep spiritual malaise, and nobody's appealing to it. The religious right did for a period, and still continues to. But mainline churches don't do that good a job."

Lear, who has ridiculed and demeaned Christians and Christianity in past television programs, now plans to provide answers where traditional Christianity has failed. In his new found "spirituality," Lear draws heavily from the Chinese philosopher Lao-tzu's "Tao Te Ching," or Book of the Way. Drawing on that and other sources, Lear plans to promote his own New Age/Secular Humanist religion.

Having recently been "converted" through a spiritual pilgrimage, Lear plans to use "Sunday Dinner" to do what he says none of the traditional religious bodies in America are doing. Observers feel it is a hypocritical act on the part of CBS, which has consistently refused to sell time to any Christian (including Billy Graham).



## Pen Pal Club

Hi. My name is Megan McGlothlin. I am 8 years old. I like to skate, swim, camp, ride horses, and play with friends. I would like for a 7 to 9 year old child to write to.

Love,  
Megan McGlothlin  
Rt. 1, Box 114  
French Camp, MS 39745

Hi!  
My name is Bob Harmon. I am 10 years of age. I attend First Baptist Church in Marion, Miss. Please write me and send me a picture, if possible. I enjoy collecting baseball cards and playing baseball. If you are interested in having a pen pal, please write me.

Love,  
Bob Harmon  
Rt. 1, Box 112  
Bailey, MS 39320

Hi! My name is Lacy. I am nine. I go to Center Terrace Baptist Church. I like to play basketball. I play the piano. I want to take gymnastics. I would like to have a pen pal.

Lacy Simms  
1016 Young St.  
Canton, MS 39046

Hi!  
My name is Heather Massey. I am 11 years old. I go to Baldwin Middle School. My hobbies are swimming, singing, and talking on the phone. My address is Rt. 2, Box 186, Baldwin, MS 38824. I would really enjoy having a pen pal.

Your Friend,  
Heather M.  
P.S. I would like an address and phone number.

Hi, my name is Rebecca, I am nine years old and in the fourth grade and I love to swim. I take piano lessons from my Sunday School teacher. I have one sister and one brother. Well, better go, please write soon.

Your pen-pal to be,  
Rebecca Hudson  
5536 Hanauma St.  
Bay St. Louis, MS

Hi! My name is Kristi Massey. I am nine years old and go to Mt. Olive Baptist Church. My hobbies are swimming, gymnastics, going to church, and talking on the phone. I would like for a boy or girl to write me. My address is: Rt. 2, Box 186, Baldwin, MS 38824.

Love in Christ,  
Kristi Massey  
P.S. Please send me a picture of yourself.

Hi.  
My name is Kathryn Hudson. I'm 10½ years old. My mom homeschools me in 5th grade. I enjoy swimming, golfing, reading, and playing the piano. I would really like a Christian boy or girl to write to me very soon.

Love in Christ,  
Kathryn Hudson  
Address:  
5536 Hanauma Street  
Bay St. Louis, MS 39520  
(601) 255-5763

Hi!  
My name is Laura Lee Griffin. I'm 8½ years old. I live in Coffeeville, Miss. I attend First Baptist Church at Coffeeville. I go to school at Kirk Academy where my mother teaches third grade. I would like to have a pen pal. Some of my hobbies are: swimming, reading, and playing in my play house.

Love,  
Laura Lee  
Box 271  
Coffeeville, MS 38922

Hi!  
My name is Amanda Worsham. I go to Hardy Church in Grenada. I am a Christian. I am 11 years old and in the fifth grade at Lizzie Horn Elementary School in Grenada. My hobbies are swimming, singing, dancing, going to the movies, and just hanging around with my friends. I would really love a pen pal to write to. Please try to send a picture of yourself.

In Christian Love,  
Amanda  
P.S. My address is:  
Rt. 1, Box 121  
Scobey, MS 38953

Hi!  
My name is Samantha Long. I am 10 years old. I go to East Webster Elementary. My hobbies are talking to my friends, swimming, and riding horses, plus more. I would enjoy having a pen pal.

Love,  
Samantha  
My address is:  
Samantha Long  
Rt. 1, Box 5  
Pheba, MS 39755

Baptist Record

005-DTM  
SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL  
901 COMMERCE ST SUITE 401  
NASHVILLE TN 37203

5-23

May 23, 1991

Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205